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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE OPEC MOVES TO COUNTER OIL GLUT DISCUSSED

Destabilizing Effects of Stockpiles

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 19 Aug 80 p 1

[Text] Algiers (APS)--We have been informed by a reliable source that some member countries of the OPEC are concerned over the situation on the world oil market and are considering a special meeting of the petroleum ministers of the member countries of this organization to examine the oil supply situation prevailing in the consumer countries.

We know that the industrial countries since the beginning of this year have accumulated stockpiles of oil previously unattained.

The record stockpiles thus established are a means of destabilizing the oil market which the decisions made at the Algiers conference last June were to have stabilized by the adoption of a reference price of US\$32 per barrel and a ceiling differential of US\$5.

We do not understand the levels of production of some member countries of the OPEC which are continuing to pour oil into the world market at a rate not justified either by their customary and reported level of production or by their financial needs and even less by the normal supplying of the world market.

And we wonder about the objectives pursued by these countries which are maintaining excess production which can be harmful only to the other members of the OPEC.

In this regard, we know that the great majority of the latter lowered the level of their exports last year and during 1980 to regain the conditions of a normalized market. That is the situation with Kuwait, Venezuela, Nigeria, Algeria, Libya, the Arab Emirates and Qatar. All of these countries together represent two-thirds of OPEC exports and are the majority of the exporting countries.

We fear that the situation which now prevails on the oil market may be the apple of discord at the meeting which has been scheduled in Vienna on 15-16 September and which is to examine the questions to be submitted to the second OPEC summit set for the beginning of November in Baghdad and may run counter to the efforts exerted to develop a strategy of dialog with the industrial countries.

Regularization of Oil Market

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 21 Aug 80 p 1

[Text] Algiers (APS)--In this summer season, the world oil market is experiencing an excess of supply over demand, in spite of the energy crisis which has recently prevailed. This paradoxical situation, apart from certain local considerations, is explained by the stockpiling policy being pursued to the extreme by the Western countries during the past few years.

This policy of establishing so-called security stockpiles is really a kind of blackmail in the hands of the Western countries against the OPEC countries which already is beginning to weigh heavily upon the oil market. If in the past the capitalist games, although still in force, consisted in relying fully upon inflation and the devaluation of the dollar to erode oil revenues and weaken the purchasing power of a barrel of oil while at the same time attempting to freeze the price of the latter, today, on the other hand, these games increasingly consist in ensuring surplus production serving to swell the so-called security stockpiles and thus to inundate the market to create confusion over the prices of a barrel of oil.

We observe that in addition to the methods used regularly to keep oil prices at the lowest levels other methods adapted to the present situation have been added to better exploit oil without concern over its conservation.

With regard to the so-called security stockpiles, the Western countries have in mind not just transfers of the equivalent of reserves of certain large deposits but transfers of the equivalent of the entire reserve of a medium-size producing country.

At present, about 2 million barrels of crude oil coming in particular from certain large producers of the OPEC which have not yet decided to reduce their production are being used to feed these stockpiles daily.

To permit the oil price-setting mechanism to fully play its role in the safeguarding of the purchasing power of a barrel of oil and the protection of oil revenues from capitalist inflation, the producing countries must give serious consideration to the question of the energy balance and the

reduction of their production to a level compatible with their development needs and to a level which eliminates all waste and constraint which could backfire against them.

The price-setting mechanism as proposed by the OPEC strategy committee; i.e., a mechanism which takes into account inflation in countries of the OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] and the evolution of their GNP, a mechanism whose content can in the meantime be improved, could have its effects nullified if the energy balance between supply and demand is distorted by a frantic exhausting of the reserves and an oversupplying of the market.

The question of reduced production which was lightly touched upon at the Algiers meeting will, in this regard, be of greater concern to the producing countries and will give them another opportunity to tighten the bonds existing between them to establish a balanced relationship with the consuming countries.

8143

CSO: 4400

SAUDI CAMPAIGN FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY, COORDINATION SEEN

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 1 Aug 80 pp 20-21

[Article: "Amir Fahd Takes On a Task Which Has So Far Been Impossible to Handle"]

[Text] Late in June, Amir Fahd spelled out Saudi Arabia's position regarding the Middle East and the Palestinian problem. His statement emphasized 6 points:

- 1) The need for Arab solidarity;
- 2) The Palestinian problem is the central issue of the Middle East conflict;
- 3) The only solution is contingent upon Israeli withdrawal from all Arab lands occupied in 1967;
- 4) East Jerusalem must be returned to Arab control;
- 5) Peace in the region may be achieved only if the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return to their homeland and to establish their own state, are recognized; and
- 6) Saudi Arabia rejects any negotiated settlement or initiative independent of the Arab nation's will.

It is evident from this statement that the first and last points, i.e., Arab solidarity and the insistence on a solution acceptable to the Arab people, form the foundation of Saudi Arabia's approach to the Middle East problem. The other 4 points follow immediately as inescapable consequences of these two major points.

The truth is that Saudi Arabia's position sums up the convictions of all Arabs. For, if anything, the summit conferences of the past 2 years, not to mention prior ones, have convinced the Arabs that what these conferences needed most was unanimity. And unanimity means solidarity and unified action regardless of the differences in the structure of Arab governments and irrespective of regional, party, and even doctrinal disputes. To

begin with, these disputes are essentially insignificant. They are no more than minor differences in approach and aspirations and squabbles over national interests. But, with respect to the Palestine problem, there are no differences. All Arab countries are in agreement with the Saudi position. The achievement of peace, in their view, is contingent upon the fulfillment of the same conditions laid down by Saudi Arabia. The problem lies not in differences over the goal, but on a plan of action for achieving that goal. The unfortunate aspect of this problem is that the rift over a plan of action is intensifying gradually, and this despite all protestations of solidarity and mobilization for facing the Zionist enemy.

The 1978 Baghdad summit conference raised hopes that the Arab states had finally agreed on a sound course of action. While it is true that they did ostracize Egypt as a renegade and seemed resigned to its loss, it is equally true that they did agree on a unified position. Unfortunately, that agreement was not translated into concrete action. The conference was referred to as the "rejection" summit, or the summit of the states opposed to the Camp David accords. In retrospect, however, rejection alone was apparently not enough. The rejection summit ultimately spawned the "steadfast front." The list of adjectives did not stop there, but in all cases the designations referred to those countries that were opposed to the Camp David accords and determined to remain steadfast in their opposition to Israel. Any Arab state outside the rejectionist front was seen as a renegade and not representative of the Arab will. The consensus among the rejectionists was that opposition to the Camp David accords inevitably implied continued confrontation of the Zionist enemy, who, in the rejectionist view, appeared undeterred in defying the Arab will, in ignoring the rights of the Palestinian people, and in his determination to annex occupied Palestinian and Arab territory.

It was further recognized that the actions of the Zionist enemy were backed by a military apparatus that was sustained by and had the absolute support of the United States. On the other hand, the rejectionist front was also aware of a developing support for the Palestinian and Arab cause among certain East and West European nations. That support, however, it was felt, had not yet been expressed openly.

It was evident, furthermore, that despite the Zionist enemy's complete economic and military dependence on the United States, he persisted not only in rejecting a military alliance with that country but in refusing to knuckle down to any demand conflicting with [Israel's] interest. On the contrary, the Zionist enemy's obstinancy went as far as compelling the United States to support, or at best to refrain from criticizing, Israeli policies that under other circumstances would be unacceptable to that country.

This was the background that would serve as the springboard of the rejectionist challenge. But what form was the challenge to take? Who would take the first step? Should a single Arab country, a group of Arab countries, or all Arab countries together take the first step? It is

at precisely this moment that the principle of Arab solidarity was born at the Baghdad summit. The principle, however, is not new. It had been echoed at a number of summit conferences since 1968. It would be put to the test once more. But how? Many questions were raised. Precisely what did Arab solidarity mean? Was it to be limited to a kind of boycott of Israel, or would it encompass other measures in which all Arab countries involved would participate? What were the ways for resisting the Zionist enemy? Would the resistance be passive as has been the case for the past 30 years, or would it be active as it should be? How would the means of this resistance be provided?

In answering these questions, some said the Palestinian revolution should serve as the starting point of this resistance. But it must be remembered that the Palestinian revolution is divided into two fronts: one operating within Palestine and the second outside it. The former is faced with a relentless and bloody enemy, a terrorist enemy devoid of respect for moral and human values. The latter is operating under restrained conditions; its path is strewn with obstacles, even explosives. For a while the entire burden of the Palestinian revolution was borne by tiny Lebanon, whose military might cannot stand up to a single division of the Israeli army. Lebanon, as was inevitable, finally exploded, and that explosion generated a new problem for the Arabs, one no less ominous than the Palestine problem.

Some advocated a united stand against the Camp David agreement in an effort to scuttle it. Some wondered whether that strategy was sufficient. "Even if we succeed in scuttling the Camp David accords," they asked, "what then?" Do we continue to wait and seek ways to confront Israel and its supporters, or do we take immediate action? If we opt for immediate action, what action do we take? Who will set the broad outlines for such an action? Who will set the details? Will the burden be placed on the confrontation states, or will it be shared by all members of the solidarity pact?

Another question: What will be the common ground which could provide the launching point for a positive resistance, a resistance with well-defined goals and established priorities? To put the question another way, let us first consider the following. Israel plans for everyone of its actions. Its plans are usually very long-range, for generations to come. Furthermore, Israel's plans encounter no opposition or protests. Any opposition, external or internal, is most frequently perfunctory; often it is a part of the plan. With this in mind, what are the means for countering Israel's plans? Do we simply react, or should our opposition be based upon our own independent planning, planning that is consistent with the Arab will and guided by Arab goals? Should we opt for war as a last resort, are we willing to make the necessary preparations. Furthermore, will our preparations be sound?

I once discussed this very point with an Arab leader. Here is what he said: We Arabs are accustomed to viewing things simplistically, to underestimate things and to overestimate our ability to get things done. We even make it sound easy to die. Others do not see death in such a

non-aligned countries. Unfortunately, some of our international friends are responsible for this. They show our people in a make-believe world. They pay little heed to the effects this has on people who ultimately wake up to reality. When people wake up to face reality, at best they become frustrated and bitter; at worst they turn to revolution.

He added: "Let me review candidly some aspects of our situation. Until the recent past, our disputes were kept quiet. We managed to solve our problems quietly. Today, at the first sign of a difference, we rush to our guns. Often, our disputes are over trivia. I have attended most of the conferences and meetings held since the 1978 Baghdad Summit conference. What have we accomplished so far? Let me give you an example. At the Baghdad summit it was resolved to set aside \$9.00 billion to assist the confrontation states, those that would form the spearhead in any confrontation with Israel. Five billion dollars were to go to Egypt in the event it repudiated the Camp David accords. Egypt showed no such inclination. But instead of giving the Egyptian share to the remaining confrontation states, that provision of the resolution was withdrawn. Even worse, some of the states that had promised to cover the other \$4.00 billion have not yet paid their shares. Why? Because certain regional developments were not to their liking. Now, as we approach the 11th summit conference to be held in Amman next November--Amman has asked for a postponement of the conference till after the American presidential elections to give the Arabs a better view of the American position--our situation has not changed very much. A quick glance at the map of the Arab world will show that in some instances our position has deteriorated. In North Africa, for example, Mauritania is occupied with its own affairs, oblivious to all else. It is a country engulfed in crisis. Morocco is in a state of undeclared war with Algeria over the Polisario. Libya backs Algeria with the support of the 'Steadfast Front.' The problem, in my opinion, is not difficult to resolve, provided good will prevails. Ever since the Gafsa episode, Tunisia's relations with Libya have been smoldering, ready to explode. Libya is massing troops on the Egyptian border. It has created a defense line similar to the old China wall. Egypt responds by massing troops on its side of the border. Egypt, the most populous and powerful country in the Arab world is completely isolated from that world. Will this isolation resolve our dispute over the Camp David accords? I will not even attempt to answer this question for I cannot correct what time has wrought. Relations between Syria and Iraq, and even between Syria and Jordan are not exactly consistent with the principles of Arab solidarity. The smoldering situation in Lebanon bodes ill for the entire Arab world. The Gulf states are at a loss on how to counter the threats surrounding them. Neither the Soviet Union nor the United States have their best interest at heart. This is even true of the European countries, especially Great Britain. The Gulf states rightfully reject any interference in their internal and defense affairs, but what will happen should the situation explode? Not even the wisest Arab diplomat can answer this question. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), accepted by the Arabs as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is having a rough time reconciling the contradictory Arab policies and providing a suitable environment for

launching its revolution properly. What was because of Iraq's national declaration that all inter-Arab disputes must be resolved peacefully? When we renounce the use of force and resort to dialogue, sincere dialogue free of exaggeration, we will be able to resolve our internecine economic and political disputes. But we have not so far accepted negotiations as a replacement for the use of force. We are still prone to violence. The Iraqi national declaration also called upon the Arabs to mobilize and use all their resources in confronting the Zionist enemy. We have been tentatized by this dream since the early 50s, more specifically since the July, 1952 Egyptian revolution. But the 20-year old revolution has been oscillating from one extreme to the other, and this lack of stability that has been at the base of its retreats and defeats. Neither Egypt could rely on the Arabs and their resources, nor they on her. Egypt was always a controversial topic among Arab leaders, who neither assessed her position correctly nor defined clearly their position with respect to her. This brings us to the Camp David accords, which, according to Egyptian officials, were entered into not enthusiastically but with the sad realization that the Arabs could never agree. Egypt's 'weakened faith' in the Arabs was thus a factor in her decision to enter into the Camp David accords."

Having finished his quick review of our situation, the Arab leader went on: "We must wake up one day--we haven't yet--to the reality of our situation. If you ask me about a solution, I have no answers. The only thing I can say is what everyone else is saying: We must unite; we must set aside our disputes and concentrate on the struggle with Israel and its supporters. This, in my view, is where we have failed all along."

Has Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia decided to take up this challenge? It seems that his planned tour of the Arab world is calculated to resolve disputes and unite the ranks of the Arab nations to give the forthcoming Amman summit a chance of success. Press reports from Riyadh indicate that Saudi officials during the past 2 months have become certain of 2 crucial trends: 1) Because of internal developments or in response to changes in relations with the non-Arab world, inter-Arab disputes will be on the increase; 2) Israel will exploit the Arab funding to create a series of new realities, ranging from driving the largest possible number of Arabs from Palestine through pressure and terroristic measures as a preliminary to declaring occupied Arab territory, including East Jerusalem, an indivisible part of the Zionist entity, to the implementation of a plan to occupy southern Lebanon. The latter measure might encompass a series of lightning raids on some of the neighboring Arab states.

Based on this information, Saudi Arabia is convinced that Arab solidarity may soon undergo its most critical test. The Saudis further believe that these impending developments may be behind the weakening of European support for the Arab cause and the Palestinian problem, as well as for turning the attention of the United States exclusively to Israel. Like any other nation, the danger of rift and possibly armed conflict within the Arab world is likely to propel the United States to seek a stable

ally in the region to help safeguard its interests. The manifest unity of the Zionist enemy, unlike our so-called solidarity is bound to spread this switch in U.S. policy.

In a recent talk, Prince Fahd questioned the intentions of the major powers regarding the Arab region and appeared skeptical about their announced declarations to defend the area, its oil and shipping lanes. He expressed apprehension about conditions in the Gulf region, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the [apparent] weakness of Europe in the face of Russia's might. But his greatest fear was over the disarray in Arab ranks. He described the lack of Arab unity as posing a greater danger than that posed by the major powers, and appealed for unity and an effective Arab voice in world affairs. Prompted by these apprehensions, Prince Fahd had decided to visit the trouble spots in an attempt to bring about negotiated settlements of Arab disputes. The Prince's example had immediate effects. Following the visit of Dr Rif'at al-Ah'ad, commander of Syria's defense forces and a leader of the Ba'ath party, to Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Government announced that it would no longer require Arab nationals to procure visas before entering Syria. Visas, according to the announcement, could be obtained from offices on the Syrian border. The abolished requirement had been interpreted as a sign of poor relations between Syria and her Arab neighbors, whom the Syrian Government had accused of helping members of the "Moslem Brotherhood" enter Syria. The imposition of the visa requirement had earlier resulted in turning thousands of Arab visitors from the Syrian border. Syria's abandonment of the visa requirement was a signal that the country would no longer adhere to a policy of reciprocal treatment with other Arab governments, who continued to adhere to the prior-to-entry visa requirement. Syria's example is but a simple example of the initiatives that could be undertaken to advance Arab solidarity.

The question, of course, is whether Prince Fahd will succeed in his undertaking. Will he be able to break the self-imposed bonds which shackle the Arabs and restrict their freedom of action, the bonds that have led to their splintering and immobilized their case?

There is reason for hope. Things have so deteriorated that we have only two options: success or further immobilization of every Arab case. In any event, success is contingent on agreement by all parties and on determination to achieve it.

Success is also contingent on actions, not on words. Excess words is not what is needed. What we need is action. A negligent smoker who causes a fire with his cigarette butt does not mean to start a fire. On the contrary, a worker who plants dynamite in a stone quarry knows what he is doing and produces a calculated result. We believe that Prince Fahd is trying to get the Arabs to be more like the dynamite planter, to deliberately undermine their disputes and to achieve a goal that has eluded them much too long.

WOG

CSO: 4802

FATHI LEADER WARNS OF DIFFICULT TIMES, EXPRESSES MILITANCE

Kuwait AL-QARAS in Arabic 3 Jul 80 p 3

/Article: Khalid al-Hasan at a Press Conference: The Arabs Are Venturing on Crucial Times Which Might Scorch More Than One Country in the Area"/

/Text/ Mr Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Central Committee of the FATH movement, declared the Palestinians' rejection of any monopolization of the region by any major power in the world. He said that the Middle East issue must be solved with the participation of all major powers in the world, including the European countries. He described the European initiative as having been "drawn up" in an obscure manner, out of diffidence. He expressed his hope that Europe would have the courage to establish a clear friendship with the Arabs, as it previously had the courage to fight them and be hostile to them.

At a press conference he held yesterday at the headquarters of the FATH office in Kuwait, Khalid al-Hasan called upon the Arab countries to draw up their policy in accordance with the requirements of their national and domestic interests. He said that the Arabs were venturing on difficult and crucial times and that more than one Arab country could be badly burned if it was not in solidarity with the Arabs in their policy and their struggle.

Khalid al-Hasan declared that a delegation from the European Common Market countries would make a tour of the Middle East in which contacts would occur with all parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

He said that the Palestinian resistance's information indicated that King Husayn was still adhering to the resolutions of the Baghdad and Tunis summits and that Carter had not been able to push him into joining the "Camp David" axis.

The Palestinian Delegation's Tour

At the start of his press conference, the member of the Central Committee of the FATH movement talked about the Palestinian delegation's tour of

Europe, which took 45 days, and stated that this tour took place in order to carry out two separate missions, first to participate in the meetings of the International Parliamentary Federation in Oslo, second to attend the Strasbourg Conference of the Society of European Parliamentarians.

Concerning the former meeting, Mr al-Hasan said that that was held to prepare for the basic general conference meeting which would be held in Berlin next September. At this meeting, the issues and drafts of resolutions were spelled out which would be presented to the general conference.

He stated that the task of the Palestinian delegation to this meeting, which comprised parliamentary delegates from 85 countries, was to add the issue of the Palestinian cause to the conference's agenda. He stressed that the delegation succeeded in this task without difficulty, since all parliamentary delegates except the representative of the Zionist enemy agreed to that.

Mr Khalid al-Hasan mentioned that another matter connected to the Palestinian cause was discussed at this meeting--the draft of a resolution to deal with the problems of refugees in the world in general.

An Israeli Draft:

He said that Israel presented a draft on this subject in the context of giving refugees passports from countries to which they had taken refuge and giving them some social and political facilities so that they would be able to express their cultural and political goals. Mr al-Hasan declared that this Israeli position arose from Israel's opposition to the return of the Palestinians to their homeland and their homes.

He mentioned that the draft of a contradictory resolution was presented to the conference with explanatory memoranda critical of the draft Israeli resolution. The opposing resolution stressed that solution of the refugee problem would occur when they returned to their homelands. The result was that the draft of the resolution opposed to the Israeli one won.

He added that after the conclusion of the meeting of the International Parliamentary Federation in Oslo the Palestinian delegation moved on to attend the Strasbourg conference. That was originally founded by the European Parliamentary Society and contained five parliamentarians representing France, Britain, The Netherlands and Germany. This society just includes the members of parliament of the nine European Common Market countries in its membership. It now consists of 350 parliamentary members. It has relations with the Arab Parliamentary Federation. Since Arab fragmentation has afflicted the Arab Parliamentary Federation with paralysis, and since the Palestinian cause is the vital one on the international stage, there are relations between the Organization of European Parliamentarians and the Palestine National Congress.

Mr al-Hasan said that in the light of these circumstances, the European organization recommended that a meeting be held between it and representatives of the Palestine National Congress, and the date was set last April. The agenda of this meeting contained a number of major issues, including a description of the reality and manner of operation of the Palestine National Congress.

A Welcome for the European Initiative

As regards the European initiative, he said that the Palestinian resistance would welcome this initiative, if it set forth from a principle of sincerity and seriousness. He pointed out that this principle must proceed from the usurped rights of the Palestinian people. He added that Europe, which had a prominent part in planning the establishment of Israel, must know full well what the Palestinian people want.

The member of the Central Committee of the FATH movement stressed the Palestinians' rejection of monopolization of the region by any major power in the world. He said that the Middle East issue must be resolved with the participation of all the major powers in the world, including the European countries, which have common interests and a political geography linking them with the Middle East.

He then focused on the demands which would enable the Palestinian people to look upon the European initiative with confidence. He said that the European position is not clearly hostile to the Arabs but is not a friendly position either and has not reached the desired level; rather, it has been drawn up in an obscure manner, with obvious diffidence. He expressed his hope that Europe would have the courage to establish true friendship with the Arabs, as it had the courage to fight them and be hostile to them.

He stressed that the first basic steps to guarantee that a sound atmosphere was provided for Arab European friendship would be recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, then the establishment of cultural and educational relations and the provision of aid to the Palestinian people and their revolution inside and outside the occupied territories. He pointed to a deficit in the budget of the Refugee Aid Agency (UNRRA): if this deficit, which came to more than \$18 million, continued, that would lead to depriving many Palestinian people of an education.

Mr al-Hasan declared that the Palestine resistance has a number of observations on the European initiative--first that it must be clear and not entail interpretations and explanations, and that it must contain a practical content for implementation, including economic punishments for Israel.

Mr Khalid al-Hasan added that after the conference ended the Palestinian delegation split up into three delegations visiting parliaments of European countries; their meetings were at the level of parliament members and

and foreign affairs committees, and there were meetings at the foreign ministry level.

Mr al-Hasan characterized Palestinian-Jordanian relations as being governed by the results of the Baghdad and Tunis summits. He said that the Palestinian positions change in accordance with change in the Jordanian positions.

He then said that the Palestine National Congress at its next meeting would stress the political program approved at the former meeting and that a new executive committee would be elected which would contain two representatives from each detachment of the Palestinian resistance. A working program for the next stage would be set out in the light of the political and organizational program approved by the former congress.

Flames Will Scorch More Than One Arab Country

Concerning conditions in Lebanon, he said that talk has proliferated in Washington about information indicating that Israel would soon launch a war against Lebanon and Syria this summer.

He expressed his belief that this war would be aimed at creating a new situation which would change the political course in the region.

He warned the Arabs of this dangerous situation, and said that they would be venturing on very difficult days if they did not return to a true combative solidarity accompanied by material action within a clear plan of action. He called on the Arabs not to content themselves with the resolutions they have become accustomed to issuing or else flames would scorch more than one Arab country.

The Resistance and Lebanon

On the subject of partition in Lebanon, he said that that was an Israeli goal and point of departure and that the resistance was on the side of the unity of Lebanon, land and people.

He mentioned that the resistance's new measures had not just been in Lebanon, but that it had started to intensify the struggle in the occupied territories, then worked to eliminate the armed phenomena and aggressions and conduct which do not become revolutionary morality and the customs and traditions of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. He said that these aggressions had reached the point where they were stirring up the Lebanese popular base against the resistance and that that was to be considered one of the most serious things the revolution faced especially if it continued.

Mr al-Hasan expressed his regret over the clashes which occurred with the Amal organization. He stated decisively that Iran had no relationship to these problems.

He said that the Palestinian leaders had done everything in their power to eliminate the causes of these disputes.

Mr al-Hasan concluded his press conference by saying "Any Arab political link with the events going on in America or Europe should be considered ignorance of the laws of political action, the conduct of anyone practicing them is subordinate, not independent, and the Arabs must come to understand the need to set out their policies in accordance with the requirements of their national and domestic interests, foremost among them the Palestinian cause, and deal with others from the premise of this policy."

11887

CSO: 4802

PARLIAMENT, SUPREME COURT PROPOSED TO UNITE ARAB NATION

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 2 Jul 80 pp 1, 6

/Article by Ibrahim Abu Nab: "The New National Charter"/

/Excerpt | When the Conference of Arab Foreign and Economic Ministers meets in Amman to prepare for the 11th Arab summit conference, which will be held in the Jordanian capital next November, it would be best if the ministers of defense also join the foreign and economic ministers, because the military danger of Israel has not lessened--rather, it has multiplied many times over and has been increased by other military dangers in the Gulf region. It would be best if all these were joined by the ministers of the interior in the Arab countries, and the ministers of education, the media, economy, culture and all the other types of ministers, if there still exist people like unity ministers in some Arab countries! It has been said that there are ministries in some Arab countries which do not exist in others, such as the Ministry of Cultural Legacy and the Ministry of Refugee Affairs; it would not be bad if these attended also.

Were it not for the fear that this talk of ours would be taken more in a spirit of jest than in a spirit of seriousness, we would recommend that an Arab parliamentary conference be held in conjunction with the Ministers' conference, in spite of the fact that Arab parliaments in the true meaning of the word do not exist and are closer to municipality councils, district councils, gathering places for old sheiks or royal seals!

Fortunately, or by the mockery of fate, I do not know which, a meeting of the sort which I am talking about actually took place in the Jordanian capital in April 1979 and lasted 4 days, from the 11th to the 15th of that month. However, it was not under the supervision of the Arab League or at its initiative, but was at the initiative and under the supervision of the international research institute of New York City. For this symposium, the institute assembled Arab and foreign experts, from all Arab countries and some foreign ones--specialists in all affairs, regardless of their position of responsibility. They met to discuss the state of this "Arab world in the transition stage." As for "transition" from what to what, I do not know, but what is proved is that this world is heading toward a

state which is different from that it is in now. Now I would have liked it if our ministers who are to meet, then our kings and presidents afterward, were to be guided by the conclusions of this symposium and did not abandon them to the benefit of the Aspen Institute alone, which is the name of the international research institute in New York City!

In our opinion, the Arab countries which are meeting must set forth a general, comprehensive plan for Arab development, because balanced, integrated Arab development is a basic, necessary thing for true regional development and is also very essential for preserving the natural development of every country and keeping Arab disputes, which in reality reflect economic disputes, from flaring up.

Speed of development must be in harmony with human absorptive power in economic, material, and social terms. What has happened in Iran offers an economic explanation of revolution besides the other political and religious justifications. The Shah wanted to achieve more than was possible in all fields at exceptional speed and he thus gave room for social and economic "takeoff" and the development of obscenely rich classes, wretchedly poor classes and classes of parasites and middlemen. "The lack of balance between major industrial development, the construction of towns and military development, on the one hand, and rural agricultural development on the other, was to some extent responsible for the economic problems and popular unrest in Iran. Achievements in specific sectors of Iranian society created deficiencies and grumbling in other ones."

However, foreigners consider, as we ourselves do, that the need to deal with the Arab nation as a single economic and social unit is still urgent. If this is not happening now through Arab unity, let it happen through real integration, so that every king or president will remain in his seat, provided that he paves the way for the growth of intrinsic Arab power. It is this integration which will give every Arab country the power of the entire Arab group. It is this which will prevent any of them from being weak and falling apart because of its particular conditions.

Perhaps the national charter which President Saddam Husayn recommended will be somewhat of an attempt in this direction, as an alternative to the National Action Charter which existed between Syria and Iraq. Let us recognize that the National Action Charter between Syria and Iraq had the aroma of an axis which could have turned the Ba'th, after it was united, into a major revolutionary force exerting pressure. However, the national charter now seems closer to reality and more likely to get all regimes respond to it, in view of the guarantees it offers them. The greatest of these guarantees is the fact that no country will attempt to resolve its problems with another country by force. Internal Arab struggles, as we have stated above, use up three quarters of Arab strength. Every Arab country, including Iraq, Syria and the Sultanate of Oman, for example, needed the power of the entire Arab group in order to stand up to various pressures.

Perhaps Iraq felt the need for stronger guarantees in the national charter than a mere meeting of kings and presidents and agreement on that. It called for a popular conference in Baghdad in which many Arab political organisations and personalities took part. It is noteworthy that among the things this conference called for was the issuance of a charter on Arab human rights.

The Correct Start

Perhaps this will be the correct start. A charter for the rights of Arab man: his human, social, political and economic rights. Arab man everywhere, so that the rights and privileges of Arab man will be no greater in any country than they are in any other country. To embody this in practice, the Arab League should be transformed from a league of states to a league of states and peoples, through the creation of a united Arab parliament in which the representation of peoples will be achieved through free election by numbers and in which representation of governments will be achieved through equal numbers.

We have in mind, for example, two national assemblies (one for Arab representatives elected by free direct election under the supervision of the Arab League and the second for senators to which every country will appoint three or four representatives). The assembly of senators will have the right to abrogate any decree taken by the assembly of representatives which might diminish the sovereignty of any state. Thus balance between the desires and interests of peoples and the wishes and interests of regimes will be achieved.

A supreme Arab court of justice within the context of the league is essential. This court, which has been one of the league's dreams, has not yet been realised. The supreme court of justice would be composed of a number of senior Arab judges representing all Arab member countries, on the stipulation that they be appointed by election through judiciary committees in every country as a guarantee of the independence and impartiality of the judges. The decrees of this court will be decisive in basic disputes arising over the interpretation of the "national charter," since this charter will be tantamount to a federal constitution of the Arab nation.

As for the kings and presidents of the Arab states, or the Arab summit, they will be the collective leadership of the nation and the supreme political authority which will adopt its decisions by majority; these decisions will only be valid following agreement by the assemblies of representatives and senators. It will be possible for the summit to elect every year for a period of 1 year a president who will have the honor of representing the whole nation in international gatherings and of speaking in its name concerning all matters which arise.

To this end, I said at the beginning of the article that it would be best when the Arab foreign and economics ministers meet next July in Amman if

the ministers of defense and education and the ministers of labor, information, culture, interior and all ministers also attended, because, if the national charter is to be a real national charter, political and economic affairs cannot be conducted apart from defense, security, education, finance and all other matters. If Arab man attains his rights in the national charter, Arab wealth will be a common national resource whose affairs will be managed by a central Arab monetary bank, the Arab Monetary Fund--which, by the way, the Aspen symposium considered a pressing need which one could not ignore.

Therefore, until this kind of charter which we are talking about is realized, a country like Libya which proceeds to build a reinforced concrete wall 300 kilometers long at a cost of \$3 billion will not have been the first Arab country to do so. The walls which exist between these countries are stronger than reinforced concrete and are making Arab disputes bear fruit.

11887

CSO: 4802

PRIME MINISTER EXAMINES INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION PROBLEMS

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 1-2 Aug 80 pp 1,3

[Excerpt] As part of a program of visits of inspection and working sessions, Prime Minister Ben Ahmed Abdelghani and Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Salim Saadi went to the wilayas of Annaba and Ouelma the day before yesterday, Thursday. The prime minister was also accompanied in his visit by Mr Benblidia, from the Ministry of Planning, and by Khalifa Mameri, director of studies in the Prime Minister's Office.

After being greeted by Bouhedja Said, national party commissioner for Annaba, and by Abdelaziz Madoui, wali of Annaba, the prime minister went directly to the Les Salines area to look at the pumping wells and installations built to alleviate the problem of water supply for the town of Annaba and for the steel industrial complex of El-Hadjer. Immediately after this, the prime minister went to the port of Annaba to see the progress made in the construction of the mineral port and, in more general terms, to assess the conditions under which the port is being used and managed.

Next, the prime minister and accompanying delegation went to visit the El-Hadjer steel industrial complex where after being greeted by Ait Hocine, director general of the SNE [National Steel Company], by the director of the plant and by the chairman of the Plant Workers' Assembly, Abdelghani expressed interest in the various problems connected with the expansion of the industrial complex and with the social situation of the workers, problems which were explained to him by the ATU [Plant Workers' Assembly] chairman.

In the industrial district of Annaba, the prime minister stopped to visit a cooperative where they process the sugar beet crop from the area of Bou-Samousse. During his visit to the wilaya of Ouelma, the prime minister went to the SOGEDIA [Food Industries Management and Development Company] plant which processes the sugar beet crops grown in the two wilayas visited as well as imported brown sugar. The tour of the plant was followed by a working session during which the wali and the plant officials had a chance to explain the operational problems of the plant.

Expansion Problems in the Industrial Zone of Annaba

On Thursday, Abdelghani, member of the Central Committee and prime minister, went to Annaba and Guelma where he spent the day making tours of inspection and holding working sessions. He was accompanied by Salim Saadi, member of the Central Committee and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, by the secretary general of the Ministry of Planning and Land Development and by the director of studies in the Prime Minister's Office.

After being met at Les Salines Airport by civilian and military authorities from the wilaya of Annaba, Abdelghani and Salim Saadi went to the pumping station located near the airport where local officials gave them detailed explanations concerning the project to develop water resources in Annaba and its region. The project consists of two dams, the dam on the Chiffia with a reservoir of 95 million cubic meters and the dam on the Nexena with a reservoir of 150 million cubic meters, both of which will supply water for agricultural, industrial and domestic use. The project also includes nine pumping wells. The Annaba-Les Salines pumping station, almost completed and already pumping 1,200 liters per second, is 3 years behind schedule. The dam on the Chiffia already holds a volume of 34 million cubic meters of water which can be used.

It has been estimated that the town of Annaba requires 1,742 liters of water per second. Right now the town is only getting 1,490 liters per second but if all goes well, the town will receive 1,970 liters per second by April 1981 and 2,260 liters per second by 1982.

Therefore, the problem of the town's water supply will be solved for several years to come although in the long run it is absolutely essential to build the dam on the Nexena, the wali said.

It must also be pointed out that a substantial portion of the water now available--some mention the figure of 50 percent--gets lost in the distribution network which is very old. From what the prime minister was told, it seems that the SNS (National Steel Company) requirements are being satisfied but nothing has changed as regards the volume of water allocated to agriculture and the population continues to suffer from water shortages. This is why people are impatiently waiting for the reservoir volume of the Chiffia dam to increase from 34 million to 95 million cubic meters, for the pumping wells to be fully operational and, above all, for the construction of the Nexena dam (150 million cubic meters).

After this, the ministerial delegation went to the port of Annaba to inspect the extension work being done on the southern pier of the mineral port where 83 percent of the construction work has been completed. They have already built 174 meters of the 322-meter long pier. When the project, where work has been going on for 4 years, is completed, the port will accommodate ships of between 30 and 70,000 tons. In its present state, the mineral port receives 10,000 tons of coal a day and has storage yards holding 90,000 tons. After explaining to the prime minister how work is progressing and the goals

of this phase of expansion, the local authorities mentioned long-term expansion plans without which some of the port traffic will have to be diverted to other ports.

Shortly after this, the prime minister and his party went to El-Hadjer where they visited the facilities of its large steel industrial complex.

Before touring, among others, the coking-plant, the blast-furnace number 2 and the 225-cubic meter silo which collapsed last May pulling down two conveyors, an extractor, a weighing machine and a coal hopper aprout, (...) Abdelghani listened to reports presented by the director of the complex and the ATU chairman on the situation in the complex and did so in the presence of the SNB director general.

The El-Hadjer industrial complex, Boudraa said in substance, employs 17,000 (seventeen thousand) workers in its own facilities and 15,000 (fifteen thousand) more in its by-products plants.

The prime minister asked the director of the industrial complex to tell him about the incident which took place last June, about environmental problems and about general problems in the industrial complex.

The Belgian construction firm, Caese Sambre, is fully responsible for the incident in early June, Boudraa replied.

Abdelghani wondered about the silence which had surrounded the incident in contrast with the outcry that such a negligence would have provoked if Algerian cadres had been the ones responsible for it.

He also reiterated the need to trust Algerian cadres as the president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN has advised time and time again.

To launch its second phase, Boudraa went on to say, the industrial complex requires 200 liters of water per second above its current water allocation (of 350 liters per second). In the final phase, the centers' requirements of water for industrial use will jump by 50 liters per second until they reach a total volume of 800 liters per second. But what is badly needed is drinking water. The industrial complex gets less than half of the drinking water it needs and the workers are forced to drink water which is not potable.

Going down the list of problems in the plant, Boudraa mentioned the problem of bringing products and raw materials to the complex and the problem of carrying the finished product to the consumers. In this matter he said, we are concerned thinking of what will happen in the next 4 years.

Finally, he emphasized the need to increase the number of ways of access to the complex by rail, especially the need to build a double track for the Ramdane Djamel-Constantine railroad line now under construction and the need to redevelop the coupler circuits of the Annaba region.

"As regards accommodation, Boudria said, we need 9,000 apartments. Of course, we could build them ourselves as agreed with the Ministry of Housing and with the wilaya but our engineering company requires financial aid to become adapted to housing construction." (...) Speaking about the problem of transportation for his personnel, the director of the complex reported on the efforts deployed in that sphere. We have, he said, 60 buses traveling 14,000 kilometers a day on 28 routes. Given their high rate of use, the condition of the roads and the lack of spare parts, the average life of a bus is less than one year. The SNTF [National Railroad Transportation Company] is not an alternative solution. This company tends to give priority to the transportation of freight and is not convenient for the workers who must walk several kilometers from their homes to the station and from the station to the complex. Nonetheless, 1,900 workers commute to work by train every day.

The director went on to talk about administrative problems mentioning, among others, the large amount of paperwork, the lack of spare parts, the rejection of aid contracts because they are too costly, for reasons of renewal or licenses (...) saying that all these difficulties are a heavy burden on the day-by-day running of the complex. For instance, the work of the shop which repairs and manufactures spare parts and units and which was created to cut down on imports, is being jeopardized by the cuts in technical assistance and by the rejection of contracts with the result that the number of assistants in that shop has dropped from 30 to 13.

When the prime minister asked about relations between management and the ATU, the director of the complex said that relations are generally good and are marked by a frank dialog, by an effective cooperation in the implementation of a number of tasks which are important for the complex (...). However, some differences of opinion exist as regards the main working methods, social matters and so on. ATU chairman Dehmi said at this point that, indeed, they still have differences of opinion on the issues of working methods and working conditions in the complex.

"We insist and, in fact, will not compromise on the subject of democratization in the activities of the industrial complex. We believe that the workers have something to say regarding all the problems of the complex regardless of their nature. (...) They are asked to produce and have done so with courage and dedication. In exchange, we are asking that they be heard on matters of work organization, management, working conditions and others, since these questions affect the stability of the work force, the tempo and rate of production and the health of the plant's workers. (...)"

The ATU chairman gave a list of the major points of friction (health and safety, transportation, social medicine, housing, restoration and democratization of activities in the plant) between the workers' representatives and management. Stressing the question of working conditions, the ATU chairman mentioned fatal accidents--4 in 1978, 8 in 1979 and 3 during the first 6 months of 1980--, inadequate infrastructure, shortcomings in the amount and quality of restoration work, water shortage, lack of means of transportation

and so on. Then, the director of the complex spoke about the working areas where they have had a higher number of accidents and said "that apart from those resulting in fatal casualties, accidents in the complex are less frequent and less serious than in the rest of the SNB plants or in steel plants in foreign countries. He then explained the measures taken to reduce the number of accidents particularly in some sectors (working areas with the highest accident rates, automotive traffic inside the plant).

Finally, he mentioned the difficulties created mostly by the Ministry of Planning when they try to implement social programs (nursery schools, holidays and resting centers, medical and social centers, sports grounds and so on), programs prepared in collaboration with the workers' representatives...

During the discussion and throughout his visit to the installations, the prime minister showed that he was very interested in the problems of the industrial complex asking questions on the use of the equipment, on production methods, on working conditions and on the technical supervisory staff. He congratulated the plant workers (management, ATU, cadres and groups) for the progress which they have made in all spheres and assured them that the government is aware of the difficulties which they are still facing.

After visiting the El-Hadjar industrial complex, the prime minister and his party went to the sugar beet cooperative grouping some 40 agricultural exploitations and covering a total area of 1,300 hectares. Sugar beet farming--which is not encouraged and requires a large labor force apparently not available in the Annaba region--seems to be having problems. Producers only do this type of farming when they are compelled or forced and even then it is done marginally over very small areas. The yield per hectare is also very low. The yield for the 1973-74 season was 12 tons per hectare; on the following season it was 8 tons per hectare; in 1975-76, it was 10 tons; in 1977-78, 12 tons; in 1978-79, 6 tons and in 1979-80, 8.568 tons.

The farmers' reluctance is obvious if one compares the area actually planted in a case in which the target was to plant 2,025 hectares. Only 1,798 hectares were planted during the 1977-78 season and on the following year they planted 131 hectares less. In this same example, the yield was 19,660 tons for the first season mentioned and 13,954 tons for the following year.

After touring the cooperative installations, the prime minister asked about the reasons why the farmers refuse to grow sugar beet, what causes the low yields, and what would be the consequences of reconverting the cooperative and of abandoning such risky farming. In their answers, local officials were unanimously in favor of reconversion.

8796

CSO: 4400

PRIME MINISTER REVIEWS PROBLEMS IN CONTEXT OF 5-YEAR PLAN

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8-9 Aug 80 pp 1, 3

[APS article: "To Strike a Balance Between the Targets and the Ability to Meet Them"]

[Text] The Prime Minister Visits Oran and Mostaganem

Prime Minister Abdelghani was in Oran on Thursday on a visit of inspection and work. He was accompanied by Minister of Housing Ahmed Ghazali and Minister of Education and Scientific Research Abdelhak Bererhi, both members of the Central Committee, by senior officials working on the plan and by the ministers' close assistants.

Abdelghani and the ministerial delegation accompanying him arrived in the western capital in the morning and were greeted by local authorities, notably by the wali of Oran, the deputy CNP [National Party Commissioner], a representative of the ANP [People's National Army] and the directors of the wilaya's external departments.

Abdelghani chaired a working session, held at the wilaya headquarters, to discuss matters of housing and education--particularly university education--and problems related to supplies. This preliminary conversation enabled the participants to take stock of the situation, assess the needs and review the difficulties. Abdelghani presented these questions mostly in the context of the various development plans and more particularly of the 5-year plan. In this respect, said the prime minister during the discussion, our efforts must be directed towards striking a balance between our means and the list of development projects which can be carried out in each wilaya. The prime minister underscored the fact that officials must be careful in the selection and management of the tasks which they want to undertake so as to be able to carry out the projects needed to make their regions prosperous. This is particularly important, he said, in view of the fact that two-thirds of the 5-year plan consist of activities intended to complete many projects and tasks started under previous plans.

This is why he asked officials to show precision and a correct sense of evaluation when they work out their programs. "One should not present proposals which, from an economic viewpoint, are not directly based on the realities of the region and which cannot be carried out. What should be done is to take into account the human factor, the material elements likely to turn these proposals into a reality within the required time span to avoid falling behind schedule time and time again, to avoid having to reassess costs and unnecessarily wasting energy and resources..."

A New Town Will Be Built in Bethioua

After outlining the spirit and substance of the national development effort, the prime minister opened the dialog between the local authorities and the ministries involved, in this case, the Ministries of Housing and Higher Education. In this framework, the wali of Oran reviewed the housing situation in his wilaya where there had been a very rapid economic and social development, and accelerated population growth with the resulting migration. The large industrial plants built in Arzew and Oran have created huge housing requirements. Consequently, the housing deficit, which in 1977 was estimated to amount to 89,700 dwellings, will start at more than 56,000 dwellings by 1984. More than 27,000 housing units were built under programs included in previous plans or under private initiative and the theoretical deficit projected for 1984 has been cut down to 29,000 units. The 12,000 housing units scheduled to be built under the 5-year plan will eventually be subtracted from that figure. In terms of land, 1,000 additional hectares of developed land will be required. With this in mind, the wilaya of Oran has established the following targets: to grant permission for the urban development required to meet the citizens' applications; to build integrated housing; to protect agricultural land with high yields and to cut down on the commuting time between the place of work and home. To achieve this goal, there have been studies dealing with regional development, with projects of general urban development for the areas of Oran, Arzew and Oued-Tlelat. They have also conducted detailed studies on the ZHUN (expansion unknown), on communal lands, on the renovation of older districts and of industrial districts. A renovation of the housing stock is also underway.

A new town, Araba, will be built near Bethioua to alleviate the housing shortage mostly in the industrial area of Arzew. It will add 10,000 units to the region's rural housing. But construction work in the wilaya is affected by the lack of resources, of adequate studies and of certain materials. Based on these facts, Minister of Housing Ahmed Ali Gazhali spoke about the need to restructure the construction companies on a local and national level to achieve better results. The minister also noted that studies must be carefully drawn up and must offer every guarantee of being practicable. Therefore, a better balance must be achieved between resources and targets in the sphere of housing.

In the wilaya of Oran, the minister would like, among other things, to see the ZHUN becoming a reality, to have more building lots and to renovate the older districts.

As a first measure to solve the problem of the lack of auxiliary industries in the housing sector, the prime minister announced that 1,000 carpentry shops and 1,000 flooring plants will be created all over the country to supply the housing industry. Abdelghani also stressed the need to finish building the University of Science and Technology in Oran where work seems to be way behind scheduled since it did not start seriously until April 1980. The discussion of problems related to education were to continue mainly between the minister of higher education and scientific research and local representatives.

The subject of the new university city, which has been closed since they had an accidental fire there, was also discussed. Unfortunately, its facilities cannot be reopened for safety reasons. That university city will remain closed until an alternative solution is found. Several proposals have been put forward by the local authorities. On this point, the prime minister called for this problem to be resolved since the beginning of the new academic year is approaching. He also hoped that the wilaya will be allocated a quota of accommodations in the University of Oran. The infrastructure for higher education is developing from year to year in the region but remains insufficient in the spheres of student accommodation and teachers. Solutions were put forward to solve these problems.

The working session went on to discuss the problems of supplies which are not too serious in the wilaya of Oran.

Towards the end of the meeting, marked by a frank and constructive dialog, the prime minister urged the local authorities to do their best to ensure a harmonious development in their wilaya.

Next, the ministerial delegation headed by Abdelghani visited the working site of the USTO (Oran University of Science and Technology) and then went to Mostaganem where it arrived in the afternoon and proceeded to visit the SONIC (National Cellulose Industries Company) paper plant, the SOGEDIA (Food Industries Management and Development Company) plant, the harbor, the wilaya construction company and the university city. During these visits, the prime minister and ministers accompanying him discussed the problems which the wilaya authorities are facing.

Mostaganem: Problems of the SONIC Paper Plant

Immediately after being greeted by the wilaya authorities, the ministerial delegation went to the SONIC paper plant. The prime minister was told about operating conditions in the plant and particularly about water supply problems and electricity outages which cause costly disruptions in production. A 3-hour cut in their water supply results in a 24-hour stop of production. If the water cuts last 24 hours, production stops for 3 days to which must be added a great deal of work to get the machinery back into working order.

The SONIC plant requires 2,200 cubic meters of water per hour. In most instances, the water cuts are due to the low-water season of the Cheliff and to the conservation requirements applying to the ground water reservoir which feeds the plant. But sometimes the water cuts are the result of electricity

outages which prevent the SONADI [National Company for the Distribution of Drinking Water and Water for Industrial Use] facilities from operating. Production, which at the moment stands below the plant's capabilities, can only be increased if the difficult problem of water supply is solved.

During the year of 1979, water cuts resulted in 3,519 hours of production stoppages. Also, these difficult conditions of operation in the plant have affected the stability of the qualified personnel. Out of 104 trained staff members, 42 have left.

Profitable Investments

As regards marketing, it must be pointed out that the price which the producer gets for 1 kilo of paper, which is 4.50 dinars, has not changed since 1975, while the consumer has to pay as much as 11.50 dinars today. Large profits are made by the retailers. Also, there have been considerable increases in the prices of all the raw materials and products used to make the paper.

As for the harmful effects on the environment, the plant officials have given reassurances that as soon as production goes back to normal, pollution will fall down to tolerable levels. Right now, the evacuation of residual waters into the sea and the smoke coming out of the plant chimneys are harmful. Very heavy investments were necessary to build the plant and it must show a profit all the more so since the project is part of the policy of increasing the value of the country's raw material to make a product as important as paper.

In the SOGEDIA sugar refinery, which the prime minister visited next, the situation is slightly better as regards production. However, the results achieved so far must be consolidated and developed. This plant transforms imported brown sugar into lumps and sugarloaves of white crystallized sugar.

Most of the specialized staff working at the SOGEDIA refinery was trained on the job which is why the ATU chairman told the prime minister about their need for training programs. The removal of the output is also a problem and affects workers' productivity. The ONACO [Algerian National Marketing Office] faces problems of transportation and cannot ensure the regular evacuation of the finished product.

Port: a Dredger Out of Operation for 3 Months

Next, the prime minister paid a visit to the port of Mostaganem where traffic has increased considerably in recent years. In addition to the ships calling there regularly, the port also accommodates ships initially going to the ports of Oran and Algiers. Dredging operations are needed in the port and although work started it was not completed because the dredger broke down several months ago. The port of Mostaganem is not congested thanks to the hard work of the port employees. Of all the Algerian ports, Mostaganem seems to be the one with the highest productivity.

At Mostagenem university campus--which was built by SOTRAMO (Mostagenem Construction Company) in the amazing short time of 15 months--the prime minister visited various buildings and was told about current and future projects of extension. The same company is now building a 500-bed residential university city.

The SOTRAMO offices and yards were the last stop in the minister's tour. SOTRAMO makes an important contribution to the development of the wilaya and since it was created, it has done over 170 millions worth of business. Its main field of activities is found in the sphere of the agrarian reform. Being well organized, the SOTRAMO finances its own machinery which maintains its value. In addition to doing projects, the company produces construction materials and supplies goods used in construction work. The company owns a tile factory, a briquette manufacturing plant and a carpentry shop.

8796

CSO: 4400

COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURAL SITUATION ANALYZED

Meeting of Wilaya Coordinators

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 24 Aug 80 p 3

[Text] Algiers (APS)--A meeting of wilaya coordinators of the National Union of Algerian Peasants (UNPA) was held yesterday morning at Party headquarters (Place des Martyrs), in the presence of Mohamed Djeghaba, Ahmed Sebaa and Aissa Nadjem, members of the Central Committee and respectively president of the Party's general organization commission, department mass organizations official and UNPA secretary general.

During this meeting, the participants presented their thoughts on three important problems in the agricultural sector. The topics included the organizational situation at the level of the various wilayas, the results of the harvesting-threshing season and the problem of commercialization after the recent measures taken by the ministry of agriculture and the agrarian revolution.

The last-named topic aroused great interest on the part of participants. In fact, the delegates of the Algerian peasants were slightly in agreement with the ministerial decision to liberalize the market, while at the same time expressing a great number of reservations.

The coordinators were especially apprehensive about the seizure and control of the market by the president [mandataire]. They wanted to know most particularly whether the latter will not take the opportunity offered to him to create situations of shortages and thereby even speculate on prices.

The meeting continued throughout the afternoon.

Signs of Change in Agricultural Sector

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 24 Aug 80 p 3

[Article by Said Mouas]

[Text] Oran--Agriculture is to the Ain-Temouchent region what the sea is to the fisherman. The region draws its wealth from agriculture just as the

fisherman draws his from the sea. The land makes demands; and it is here that the fellah, as everywhere else, is faced by problems which are as difficult as they are varied.

In this vast daïra, one of the country's largest, agricultural activity has experienced many disruptions which have led officials at certain times to rethink their actions. It was precisely for this purpose that a meeting was held recently in the daïra offices which assembled all the authorities involved in agricultural questions.

A report summarizing the principal aspects of the situation was presented on that occasion.

With a view to better defining the situation and examining the problems down to their smallest details, the debate at the meeting covered all aspects inherent in the agricultural sector: social and organizational techniques. Before taking up the problem in-depth, it seems useful to provide some specifics about the structural and ambient framework of the region.

In this region, there are 64 self-managed entities, 2 CAPAM (Moudjahidine Production Cooperative) and 149 CAPRA (Agricultural Production Cooperative of the Agrarian Revolution) sharing about 114,927 hectares with 3,404 small fellahs.

Naturally, the self-managed sector has the lion's share. With a total land area of 77,365 hectares, it employs 7,367 laborers, including 1,902 seasonal workers. However, its output is far below the expected yield. This year's production was described as low in this section despite the fact that resources seemed relatively sufficient. Thus the average yield per crop was as follows: 6 quintals of grain per hectare, 3 quintals-hectare of dried legumes, 20 quintals-hectare of wine grapes and 25 quintals-hectare of arboriculture.

The agrarian revolution sector covers an area of 25,928 hectares and has 149 CAPRA. Most of the CAPRA are concentrated around El-Amria (Hassi, 58; El Ghella, 28, Ain-Temouchent, 15; and Ain Tolba, 6). Some 1,321 assignees of the agrarian revolution are attached to these structures.

Improper Production Techniques

As for the private sector, it is now handling 10,366 hectares. The profitability of this sector is slightly higher than that of the other sectors (8 quintals-hectare of grains; 40 quintals-hectare of wine grapes and 35 quintals-hectare of arboriculture). These results reveal at least one thing: the agrarian revolution and self-managed sectors are basically able to greatly exceed their present productions. Problems of all kinds can be

cited which are keeping the socialist sector from reaching production levels worthy of its possibilities but how these problems are to be resolved continues to be a question of the commitment and the awareness of their responsibilities on the part of the workers.

This indoctrination effort is the responsibility of the Party and the mass organizations. Of course, this point alone should not be used as a pretext for the kinds of dismissals being manifested.

There are three kinds of objective restraints:

--In the first place, techniques! The financing of some projects requires sizable credits which the production units do not always obtain. As we know, the BNA (National Bank of Algeria) makes loans on the basis of the situation of these units. By facilitating the procedure for the granting of loans to interested parties as much as possible, the Bank would in part resolve their problems.

A second point relating to the expansion of water resources construction work would permit recovery of large expanses of land. Of a total of 270 watering sites noted throughout the Jaira, only 107 are equipped for the irrigation of 1,135 hectares. In the communes of Hassi, El Ghella and El-Amria, land development work has been delayed for lack of credits. There are also soil protection and restoration activities through reforestation and the installation of traversable roads (banquettes) through fertile lands and at higher elevations in Ain Tolba and Aghlal, in particular, and repair of local roads whose poor condition is the cause of many breakdowns of agricultural equipment, etc.

Uncultivated lands cover an area of 16,974 hectares. The size of this area, principally at the level of the production units, permits intensification of sheepraising, up to 3,000 head. For the moment, livestock production falls within the jurisdiction of the self-managed sector with a total of 5,215 head (4,318 sheep and 897 cattle). Also, supplies of fodder (4,055 quintals the past season) are large enough to permit the installation of sheep and cattle fattening areas.

The opening of poultry centers, "chickens for meat and egg production" would respond to a necessity: the need to check the price rises affecting the sale of these products which have become the preferred target of all kinds of speculators who abound in the urban centers and who have succeeded in setting up veritable full-blown poultry "industries" on their own property or elsewhere. Judicious control of this parallel private poultry market and an increase in the number of production centers in the state sector would have the immediate result of isolating the phony poultry raisers who are getting rich at a breathtaking rate following the sharp rise in the price of meat.

Among the reasons for low yields, it is worth noting the insufficiency of high-powered tractors, climatic hazards and improper production techniques.

15 Socialist Agricultural Villages Scheduled

Added to all these technical problems there is a no less important factor affecting the workers' standard of living. The housing program in the self-managed and agrarian revolution sectors, once completed, will very appreciably change the social environment of those who work the land. Fifteen socialist agricultural villages will be built in the next decade, including three in Aghlal, two in El-Amria, two in Temouchent and two in Terga. These four localities, therefore, share a total of 10 projects. This grandiose program will complement the one now being carried out in Aghlal, Ain-Tolba, Terga and El-Malah, where about 100 housing units per agricultural village are scheduled. Let us state parenthetically that the construction through self-financing of the socialist village of Messada Ben-Badis (El-Malah commune) which was started about 5 years ago is still having problems.

For its part, the self-managed sector has 626 housing units of which 19 are in the completion stage in Chaabat El-Leham. The needs of this sector have also increased.

Along with housing, education presents another problem which is facing students who are having difficulty getting to their respective schools on a daily basis.

An increase in old-age pensions and standardization of family allowances vis-a-vis other sectors are also the aspirations of the fellah group in the daïra.

Production and productivity cannot be disassociated from these problems. Moreover, there is one problem, which because of its implications, impacts upon production. In this instance, the problem is one of the technical environment; i.e., the entire chain of structures which support the farmers and condition the attainment of their objectives. We will mention three of these structures:

--the ONAMA (National Agricultural Equipment Office): this office is not entirely fulfilling its responsibilities vis-a-vis production centers which are poorly supplied with spare parts and which are complaining of not being assisted technically in matters of mechanical breakdowns and the drilling of wells.

--the CAPCS (Communal Multi-Service Agriculture Cooperative): this office is marking time at present, particularly as regards anything having to do with supplies and commercialization. The problem of transportation and packaging continues to have an impact on the producer-consumer cycle.

--the COFEL (Fruit and Vegetable Cooperative): the Temouchent branch supplies that of Sidi-Bel-Abbes in the amount of 50 percent, in conformance with a not-too-rigid circular, which does not in any way take into consideration the needs of the daira itself. We wonder why the COFEL of the wilaya administrative seat would not do the same thing.

The wilaya director of the organization in question apparently made commitments to equip the Temouchent COFEL with trucks and packaging equipment. Not only was nothing done but what is more the packaging equipment sent to Sidi-Bel-Abbes was not returned. In any event, the COFEL is not doing its job of regulator; and the difficulties observed in the flow of products derive in large measure from these contradictions.

Agricultural development in the Ain-Temouchent daira has never experienced a more favorable situation. The decisions made in this regard by the second meeting of the Central Committee, the many ministerial debates which are taking place in this period and above all the installation of communal delegations of the agrarian revolution are as many encouraging signs and the precursors of change. It is time for agriculture to recover the position which belongs to it in the national economic configuration.

Improvement in Skikda

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 22-23 Aug 80 p 2

[Article by Rachid Souilah]

[Text] In the Skikda wilaya, the harvesting-threshing season is progressing satisfactorily, with account taken of the efforts made by the wilaya services and the directorate of agriculture, on the one hand, and the material resources utilized, on the other hand.

The season is scheduled to end on 25 August, while last year it ended on 15 September. This appreciable saving of time is due to the preparation in the materials sector which took place in an organized manner and which thus was able to respond favorably to the needs of agricultural exploitation for equipment; e.g., harvester-threshers and baggers. In fact, with the purchase this year of 20 harvester-threshers, the wilaya of Skikda found itself equipped with 128 pieces of agricultural machinery. This permitted an enormous speedup in harvesting operations. What is more, the timesaving is already permitting the start of work on the preparation of the soil for the next plowing-sowing season.

As for production, it is estimated that there is an appreciable production increase which ranges from 5 and 10 percent, depending upon the crop, compared to the last season. Thus the overall forecasts for harvests are on the order of 355,000 quintals compared to the 320,000 quintals obtained in 1979; i.e., an increase of 35,000 quintals.

We should point out that this improvement in production is not only due to the quality of the work done, particularly in the weeding operations, but also to the good distribution of rains which were favorable this year to grain crops.

Moreover, the objectives of the 1980 season which set their sights on a total surface of 41,834 hectares permitted the recording of per crop production which breaks down as follows:

--Hard wheat: 31,000 hectares, soft wheat: 7,400 hectares; barley: 1,500 hectares; oats: 1,394 hectares.

As can be noted, hard wheat represented 70 percent of production, followed by barley, 22 percent, oats, 7.5 percent, and finally, soft wheat, 0.5 percent [as published].

Availability of Spare Parts

In the equipment sector, it is worth noting the improvements registered both in the inventory of machinery area, which was bolstered by 26 harvester-threshers, and in the breakdown area that improved considerably compared to last year which had a 30 percent breakdown rate for the entire season.

This year the rate of breakdowns did not exceed 15 percent. This improvement was possible thanks to the much improved availability of spare parts at the ONAMA level, which is providing regular supplies. The situation is the same as regards bogging machinery, fuel and lubricants which covered all the vilaya's needs during the season.

In the technical sector, the directorate of agriculture installed a technical team which was responsible for monitoring the harvesting-threshing operations and the ONAMA sent two teams of breakdown mechanics equipped with vehicles containing the tools needed for the on-site repair of machinery.

These teams did a fine job, and their efforts produced the excellent results which we cited earlier. Nevertheless, it continues to be desirable for these teams to be beefed up by the ONAMA in the future; this would make it possible to give coverage to all the communes of the vilaya.

As regards the collection of grain production, this is handled by the CERECOOP [? Grain Cooperative] which is exerting great efforts, particularly through the establishment of a motor park for trucks which are dispatched to meet the demand of the producers. Because of this arrangement, the collecting of the harvests is accomplished regularly to the great satisfaction of the fellahs.

Finally, the problems encountered are to be found principally in the sector of inadequate storage facilities. In fact, it is estimated that for lack of warehouses in sufficient number unwarehoused grain will total 20,000 quintals this year.

However, the CERECOP, alerted by the directorate of agriculture, apparently has already taken steps to handle this situation by building suitable storage sites, according to the conclusion reached by officials responsible for the management of agriculture, the agrarian revolution and the forests.

As can be readily observed, thanks to the concerted efforts of all parties (local authorities, offices, cooperatives, farmers), the harvesting-threshing season has been crowned by excellent results in the Sikida vilaya. It is to be hoped that the satisfactory results obtained will be multiplied in the coming years, and this in response to national needs in the grain sector.

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CSO: 4400

ALGERIA

HARVEST PROGRESS, PROBLEMS REPORTED

80 Percent of Crops Harvested

Algiers EL NOUDJAHID in French 5 Aug 80 p 1

[Text] The harvesting and threshing campaign, which started on 15 August, is in progress all over the country. These activities should be completed by 15 August. Eighty percent of the crops have been harvested by now. Many farmers would like to finish the harvest before the Aid festivities. But to do so they must work even harder to overcome obstacles of a material and human nature. In addition to the insufficiencies arising in the sphere of transportation of the grain, which at times force the farmers to stop their harvesting and threshing activities to take care of that transportation, the harvest has raised the problem of a shortage of manpower.

As the labor force gets older, there is no younger generation to take over. Temporary solutions have been tried out to meet this shortage but they are only stopgap solutions. Pensioners and seasonal young workers have been recruited to bring in the grain harvest for daily wages of 35 Algerian dinars.

Also, when the harvest is finished, the land is not allowed to lie fallow. With the practice of transhumance, the fields are subjected to overgrazing which has very bad consequences.

However, it is acknowledged that while adequate, the 1980 harvest is not an exceptionally good one. Self sufficiency in grain production is still a goal to be achieved and Algeria continues to import large quantities of grain. To be selfsufficient, serious problems must be overcome.

Harvest Progress in Mascara Wilaya

Algiers LA NATION in French 6 Aug 80 p 2

[Text] Mascara (APS)--Harvesting and threshing activities, going on at a brisk pace in the wilaya of Mascara, are coming to an end since 80 percent of the crops have been harvested. So far, 859 quintals of grain have been harvested, of which 445,000 quintals came from the socialist sector, 95,100 quintals from

the agrarian reform sector and 319,500 quintals from the private sector. These figures represent crops harvested in an area of 78,495 hectares out of the total area of 95,644 hectares planted throughout the wilaya. The harvest is expected to be over by the middle of August.

The DARAW (expansion unknown) officials reckon that by the end of the season the wilaya will have produced over 1 million quintals of grain. If this figure is reached, it will set a record in production since last year's yield was 582,692 quintals and the previous year's production was in the order of 342,103 quintals. The current harvest is taking place under very satisfactory conditions thanks to the mechanized equipment which includes 236 combine-harvesters.

The difficulties arising at the beginning of the harvesting season, which were due to the shortage of manpower, since the workers were busy with other crops such as potatoes and onions, were solved in good time by recruiting seasonal workers from neighboring regions.

It must also be pointed out that the hay harvest ended a short while ago in the wilaya. This harvest involved 24,831 hectares of fields where 495,000 quintals of hay were harvested: 223,000 quintals from lands belonging to the selfmanagement sector, 51,000 quintals from lands belonging to the agrarian reform sector and 221,000 quintals from privately owned lands. This volume of production will be enough to meet the wilaya's requirements of livestock fodder. This crop registered a significant increase being 174,614 quintals in excess of last year's crop which amounted to 320,386 quintals.

8796

CSD: 4400

INADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITIES REPORTED

Algiers EL HOUDJAHID in French 1-2 Aug 80 p 2

[Report: "Constantine: Inadequate Storage Facilities: Two SNGA National Construction Materials Company] for a Population of 500,000"]

[Text] Constantine (APS). Wednesday, at 1030 hours, inside the Galeries Algeriennes (formerly Magasin du Globe), everyone was in his assigned position, waiting with apprehension for the store to open. Since the beginning of Ramadhan this has been, for the employees of the unit, the beginning of their daily Calvary.

The employee in charge of raising the store curtain was cautious, for a huge and impatient crowd had been waiting for over one hour in front of each of the three doors.

Even before the curtain was completely raised the first customers had already rushed inside. Released, the human flood poured into the hall. In less than one minute the food products area became packed. Hundreds of people were crowded in a hall for a capacity one-twentieth of their number.

As of that point no one could move freely. Gripped in the cog, the consumer could only follow the movements of the human tide.

Access to the exhibited goods becomes a challenge and the consumer could spend a great deal blocked in front of the shelf with spices whereas he would have liked to buy some cheese. Then, after having surmounted thousands of difficulties, should he succeed in making his purchases, he is faced with the most difficult trial of going through the cash register. One could wait for hours on end in line. It is there that a high percentage of clients give up, unable physically to withstand the ultimate trial.

The six cashiers of the "general foods" area were literally besieged and crowded from all sides. Si Ahmed, the most courteous of the cashiers, the one who answers with a smile to the bad mood of the customers, is totally confused. Yet, the situation is simple: He could do his job

properly only if the customers line up. This would speed up things and everyone would be served. Si Ahmed leaves his booth and tries to make order. After repeated requests for civil behavior, discipline, and reason he gives up. . . .

Anyway, this would be impossible, for even if the most disciplined among the customers would like to line up "decently," they would be unable to do so because of lack of space.

Every day is the same, one clerk in the unit points out. "In a normal period we just about managed. Now, in the midst of the Ramadhan season, the people have to come here. There is no other food outlet. Two SNGA units cannot serve half a million people," another clerk added.

Some 100 meters away the same situation prevails in the second unit (the old Monoprix) of the SNGA. Furthermore, let us point out the small size of the two stores which could barely accommodate the population of a big district.

Being the only ones, the two SNGA units are subjected to strong pressure throughout the year.

The Need for a Souk El-Fellah

The same type of crowding in purchasing fruits and vegetables takes place in the enclosed market, the market on Boudjeriou Boulevard, or the "Souk El-Fellah." Here again the citizen is still harassed.

Possibilities in the area of the marketing and distribution of food remain rather slim. In a period in which big marketing areas are increasing in number throughout the country, the idea of a peasant market in Constantine has not even been considered. The city is, therefore, awaiting the implementation of a plan for small SNGA units to be opened in the outlying districts in order to reduce the concentration in the center of the city.

Yet, even though a dozen or even more such units would be needed, the plan calls for no more than four, only one of which is under construction. It will be completed by the end of the year. Implementation of the four units planned should be seriously undertaken.

Considering the difficulties which companies and agencies directly involved in the implementation of the imports program in this first half of Ramadhan have encountered, several actions should be implemented before the market could be controlled and prices stabilized.

Thus, if substantial amounts of goods are allocated to Constantine, shipping them from the ports of Skikda and Annaba would be a major hindrance.

Most of the national companies have no transportation facilities and the wilaya has not as yet set up its own enterprise. Furthermore, the BNTR [National Road Transportation Company], the main transport organization, has only one agency in Constantine. Therefore, use has been made of private transports. This is not an advantageous solution, for the cost of such transportation is very high. Private transportation is insufficient and cannot be efficiently used.

Other problems include the lack of storage capacities. Currently there is a shortage of refrigerated areas and systems.

The volume and pace of arrivals do not always correspond to the desires of the importers. One could easily imagine, therefore, the mess which could possibly result by such insufficiencies.

Once again this year, despite the abundance of products and goods, the condition of the Constantine consumer remains quite unsatisfactory. Massive imports can resolve only part of the problem. Therefore, imports alone are insufficient.

Since the goods are available, their purchase by the citizens should be made easier. This is the first requirement if the imports program is to succeed. To achieve this, this aspect of the problem should be considered on the local level with the proper amount of interest and permanent concern should be displayed to satisfy the interests of the citizen.

9157

CSO: 4400

FREEDOM, PROGRESS UNDER ISLAM DISCUSSED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8-9 Aug 80 p 1

[Article by K. B.1 "Islam, Liberation and Progress"]

[Text] All young Algerians who draw moral comfort and motivations from contemporary Islamic society would find this a proper turnaround. Despite the regained freedom, following one-and-a-half centuries of oppression, and the return of the land and social justice to their legitimate beneficiaries, one age-old dimension which has molded the historical character of the Algerian people was lacking: Islam, which was one of the most powerful barriers to attempted depersonalization carried out through foreign invasions, colonialism, and feudal collaborators.

Today, Algeria with its National Charter, is clearly aware of its affiliation with the Islamic world. The only issue facing this world is "to go beyond reformism and take the way of the social revolution." Unquestionably, socialism is well within the historical perspectives of Islam.

The Algerian people follow a militant Islam, moved by a sense of justice, equality, and exposure to the benefits of knowledge and the sciences. We have nothing in common with the foggy messages of some fishermen in muddy waters who abuse the faith of the Algerians leading them into an aberrant moralism, a withdrawal within themselves, and a conditioning which has never been consistent with the ideas of the Revelations of the Holy Book, starting with that famous night of Lailat el Kadr which was celebrated Thursday by the entire Algerian people.

Islam has never been a party of clandestinity. The fact that it triumphed and won the peoples over was certainly not due to chauvinistic concepts which today quite poorly conceal the intentions of their authors, to restore anachronism in a world which escapes them and, for the sake of purification and moral virtues, rally within the same ranks the last vestiges of our traditional feudal lords and big merchants who hate socialism and progress.

The type of Islam supporting a socialist revolution is credible because it has impartially analyzed the historical reasons for the decadence of the Islamic world, because it has no sectarian visions of Islamic thinking, and because of its lofty concept of human dignity.

Islam, which will brilliantly shine on our society, will be the creation of our children, the heirs of revolutionaries who are pursuing a project far greater than assimilation through "the goat and the djellaba" the total remelting of the society through decisive changes which will put a definitive end to obscurantism, despotism, and feudalism. To be a worker for the agrarian revolution, a promoter of social management, a student, or a researcher in an Algerian university does not mean any reduction of the faith in Islam.

This would be a modern, just, and nondemagogical way of serving it. It basically opposes the divine powers which some militant faithful and other conquerors and lords ruling at the expense of their peoples have attributed to themselves.

The Algerian people have neither complexes nor lessons to receive, particularly in terms of its Arab nature and faith in Islam. All the attributes of our religion have been actively restored with the regaining of independence.

The broadening of knowledge, thanks to schools and universities, was paralleled by an increased deepening of Islamic faith in a path of progress and justice. This faith, anchored for centuries in the heart of every Algerian man and woman, must be protected from factionalist and fraudulent elements who are trying to undermine the joint efforts of the revolution and Islam in Algeria by exploiting insufficiencies and some contradictions which have appeared within the society.

The spiritual nature of despair had some validity under colonialism. Today the Algerian is a free person. He is the master of his own fate. He does not need in the least the help of his opponents of yesterday or for the methods of those addicted to the past, applied on shores less forbearing than ours.

5157

CSO: 4400

IMAMS URGED TO FOCUS ON ROLE AS EDUCATORS

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 25 Aug 80 p 2

[Article by Cherif Haddad]

[Text] Abderrahmane Chibane, member of the Central Committee and minister of religious affairs, who took a work trip to Constantine on Saturday, accompanied Mohamed Benahmed Abdelghani, member of the Central Committee and prime minister, on a visit which the prime minister made to the work sites of the Islamic University and the Emir Abdelkader Mosque.

In the afternoon, the minister of religious affairs, with Ahmed Hamani, president of the Islamic Superior Council and his close colleagues at his side, chaired a work meeting which included the imams from the wilaya of Constantine.

Opening the meeting, the wilaya director of religious affairs welcomed the minister and the delegation accompanying him and took this opportunity to assure him of his full cooperation in the accomplishment of his mission.

In turn, Ahmed Hamani stressed the purpose and meaning of the Imam's mission as the propagator of the Islamic religion. The president of the Islamic Superior Council described the social-cultural training which should be given to every imam so that he will be able to master all the Koranic laws and in turn be able to engage in Islamic instruction in a social spirit, in accordance with the recommendations of the hadith.

The minister of religious affairs presented the broad lines of force which in the future will govern the working relations between his ministerial department and all the other ministries, based on the spirit of understanding and the complementarity in the action of building the country in conformity with the recommendations of the FLN Party's extraordinary congress and the last meeting of the Central Committee.

As he brought out the prestigious past of the capital of the East, its cultural and religious influence throughout the territory, the minister emphasized the importance of the homage which he was rendering to the venerated Sheikh Abdelhamid Ibn Badis by making his first visit outside Algiers to the city of Constantine.

Examining the history of the mosque's participation in the fight for national liberation, the minister of religious affairs called upon the imams to have a better understanding of their role as educators of Islam and asked them to draw as near as possible to the citizen wherever he may be.

Recalling the rights and duties of the imam, Abderrahmane Chibane described "religion as the cement of peoples" and called upon the imams to leave their mosques and to draw nearer to all the authorities (Party, APC, Administration).

"An imam should preach by example in the accomplishment of his mission as an Islamic educator," he concluded.

Profitable debates were then begun on several topics concerning social problems and the training of imams. Clarifications were presented for the imams by high officials of the ministry of religious affairs, and a plan of action was drawn up to breathe new life into the imam's mission throughout the country.

8143

CSO: 4400

NEW ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OPENS IN OCTOBER

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 24 Aug 80 pp 1, 3

[Article by Cherif Haddad]

[Text] Yesterday Mohamed Benahmed Abdelghani, member of the Central Committee and prime minister, made an inspection and working visit to the eastern part of the country, accompanied by Abderrahmane Chibane, member of the Central Committee and minister of religious affairs.

The first stop of this tour was made at the Islamic University and the Emir Abdelkader Mosque, which is under construction.

Received at the Ain El-Bey airport by civilian and military authorities of the wilaya, the ministerial delegation, after several minutes of relaxation in the airport's lounges, traveled to the construction sites of the Islamic University and the Emir Abdelkader Mosque.

The prime minister chaired a limited work meeting on the site of the Emir Abdelkader Mosque. During this meeting, two topics were discussed: the state of advancement of construction work and the housing construction situation in the wilaya.

After having listened attentively to the reports given by the regional delegate of the DNC [National Directorate for Construction], the organization responsible for the construction of the Islamic University-Emir Abdelkaer Mosque complex and by the wilaya director for housing and urbanism, the prime minister placed particular emphasis on the awareness which should motivate every leader, wherever located, to leave the beaten paths and redouble his efforts to hasten the building of the country.

Fully acknowledging the problems being encountered by those engaged in building the Emir Abdelkader Mosque and the Islamic University, the prime minister assured them of his active support in the completion of the

ambitious project in the shortest time possible and called upon them to make better use of the potentialities existing in the country and to assure closer cooperation among all parties responsible for execution of the project.

The idea of building a grand mosque in Constantine originated in 1968. Faced by the magnitude of the project, Abdelghani, who commanded the Fifth Military Region at that time, was personally interested in this work of art. Excited by this project, the late President Houari Boumediene took it to his heart; and it was under his aegis that the mosque project was broadened to include an Islamic university.

The bureau of technical studies of the SONATRACH was then made responsible for the [feasibility] studies, while the execution of the project was placed in the hands of the DNC.

Made up of an immense prayer hall with its annexes and the Islamic University, the complex whose construction work was started in 1972 is far behind schedule because of a shortfall in financing. Added to this is the specificity of the products needed for its completion, which must harmonize with its architectural configuration.

At present, the credits needed for reactivation of the work sites are on the order of 13,961,250 dinars.

This situation, after having being brought to the attention of the prime minister, was the subject of a work meeting including the minister of religious affairs, the president of the Islamic Superior Council, representatives of the minister and the operators (DNC and SONATRACH).

At an early stage, solutions were offered in the financial sector. For his part, Abderrahmane Chibane, minister of religious affairs, assured the builders of his personal support, to speed up construction work on this imposing project.

Taking into account all of the measures approved during the work meeting, the DNC regional delegate assured the minister of religious affairs of the mobilization of all DNC personnel to deliver the Islamic University to the students next October.

Before traveling to Skikda, the prime minister familiarized himself with the status of housing construction in the Constantine wilaya. The DHUC [expansion unknown] report indicates that the wilaya which on 31 December 1979 had a financial package for the construction of 25,731 urban housing units programmed during the two Plans had taken delivery of only 6,050 housing units as of 31 December 1979 and 739 units during the first 6 months of 1980.

Accounts payable incurred during the first 6 months of 1983 totaled 11 million dinars.

The housing program of the educational sector is suffering from a cost overrun, and 792 housing units remain unfinished to this day. Rural housing and the self-managed sector have registered an appreciable rate of advancement.

In a related connection, construction of the socialist villages continues to be uncertain. The village originally planned at Djebel Oualich, consisting of 100 housing units, could not be built, since the locality involved did not have allottees (attribotaries); and a request for the relocation of the village was addressed to the minister of planning.

This first stage of the prime minister's trip in the eastern part of the country was highlighted by a status report on construction in the housing sector across the wilaya and reactivation of the construction sites for the Emir Abdelkader Mosque-Islamic University complex.

8141

CSO: 4400

NEW PARTY CELLS SET UP IN TIENECEN ENTERPRISES

Algeria EL MOUDJAHID in French 14 Aug 80 p 1

[Text] The process of setting up of FLN Party cells in enterprises and economic and administrative entities which was started a few months ago is continuing. The development of an organizational action plan was the subject of a meeting held by the first three enterprise cells established in the Tienecen SONELCO (Algerian National Company for the Manufacture and Installation of Electrical and Electronic Equipment) and in the APC Hospital Center.

The workers' principal concerns with respect to the cell's operation were compiled by bureau members of the three enterprise cells.

The participation of FLN cells in the management of enterprises will permit the harmonizing and coordinating of actions designed to strengthen this important state sector on the one hand and the making of decisions on the other hand aimed at invigorating work in all its aspects, as set forth in the statutes.

The other enterprise cells which will be installed in the enterprises and economic and administrative entities of the Tienecen wilaya will in turn extend this important operation implemented by the FLN Party to all the communes.

The installation of these cells the principle of which was established by the Fourth Party Congress falls within the framework of application of the decision made by the Central Committee to set up enterprise cells.

As a new structure, the Party cell has the role of broadening the Party's field of action and thus permitting it to better exercise its responsibilities in the sectors of planning and control of the country's general policy. The installation of these cells also translates the Party's desire to organize all sectors of national life and to be present in industrial entities, in agricultural exploitations and in socioeducative, cultural, administrative

and service institutions. As stated by Articles 7 and 8 covering the organization and operation of this structure: "The enterprise cell takes care of the ideological and political training of workers and farmers in the work sites."

Its role is also "to orient the enterprise's policy within the framework of application of the National Constitution and the execution of every development plan, to evaluate and control the management organizations of the enterprise, as well as the schedule of activities within the framework of the development plan..."

Depending upon the size and importance of the enterprise, one or several cells can be set up, whose membership will range from 10-50 activists. Let us remember that several Party cells have already been installed in the production entities of various sectors.

8143

CSD: 4400

COORDINATING COUNCIL STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF COORDINED

Algiers EL MURBAHID In French 13 Aug 80 p 1

[Article by Rachid Boullab]

[Text] Continuing the cycle of meetings with elected officials of the rural and fish organizations, members of the Shikda CNP (National Party Commission) council traveled to Tamloua and Collo recently where they held work meetings with the executive councils of the kammas and APCs of the communes of Tamloua, Ain-Gherba, Oum-Toub, Collo, Ouled Attia and Zitouna.

During the meetings-debates, organizational, socioeconomic and cultural problems were examined at length and concrete solutions were advanced to make up for the inadequacies existing here and there, whether in the sectors of education, housing, transportation or water resources, agriculture, fishing or trade.

A region which is basically committed to agriculture, with a modest fishing activity, the Collo daïra is facing problems of enclavement which places a rein on its economic and social development. The problems, therefore, are sizable when one knows that this cradle of the armed revolution suffered a great deal from colonization which caused serious damage and when one measures the size of its population, the largest in the wilaya.

This daïra is the subject of very particular attention on the part of the local authorities, notably through implementation of its special development program and its various plans for modernization. The execution of the ambitious projects which were granted to it will most certainly permit the daïra to make up the cumulative shortfalls in all sectors and in the near future to experience a considerable economic upsurge. Of course, constraints of a material and human kind (particularly technical cadres) are present, and officials at all levels are aware of them.

Moreover, it is in this sense that the speech by Lakhdar Ouazzani, Party national commissioner (CNP), was oriented. He asked the officials elected

by the rank and file to unify their actions and to work without losing sight of the framework of the mission which was entrusted to them by the people for the economic and social promotion of the region.

After having reassured them with respect to the continuing help which will be given them by the political and administrative organizations of the wilaya, the CNP did not fail to call their attention to the application by deeds of the recommendations of the Party's extraordinary congress and of the directives of the political directorate. What is more, he also recalled the objectives of the Third Development Plan and the results expected in the next 5 years.

In Tamlouga, the CNP also spoke about the importance of such meetings. After having called the attention of the elected officials to the need for a proper analysis and understanding of the major lines and objectives envisaged by the Plan to assure its application and success in all sectors (education, housing, water resources, fishing, health, etc.), the Party's national commissioner recalled that political independence has need of economic independence and that it was necessary to work for the liberation of the country from foreign dependence. To successfully attain harmonious, national economic balance, to assure restoration of national revenue, therefore, the standard of living the awareness and mobilization of all the living forces of the nation are necessary, as they also permit the thwarting and eliminating of all the dangers which are threatening our political and economic independence.

The CNP stressed the dangers created by internal and external reaction and its activities which are inimical to the revolution and its achievements, and also called for the strengthening of the FLN Party's ranks and vigilance.

Quazzani emphasized the explanation and understanding of the recommendations and resolutions of the Party's extraordinary congress. He also defined the mission of the new communal council for coordination and cited the responsibilities which envisage the economic and social development of the commune. Finally, he invited the officials to rise above local problems and to concentrate all their efforts on tasks of national development.

During the debate which ensued, officials of the executive councils of the six communes described with great frankness and clarity the problems they are encountering in the sector of implementation as well as the shortfalls experienced in various sectors which are the cause of the development delays in their respective localities. These shortfalls particularly involve education, health, water resources...

Finally, Said Hamrouche, deputy CNP, provided guidelines to be followed to overcome and resolve the problems encountered. In this regard, he invited the elected officials to be aware of national realities to objectively

analyze the total package of problems and to find suitable solutions for them. "For the responsibility falls principally upon elected officials who must keep ahead of problems and avoid confining themselves to a position of wait-and-see or fleeing from their responsibilities." He also called upon the elected officials to be responsive to the aspirations of the people for the satisfaction of their needs. Finally, he cited the role of the elected assemblies in the materializing of the objectives of the National Development Plan.

8143

CSO: 4400

BRIEFS

FLN POLITBURO AGENDA--Algiers (APS)--The Politburo met yesterday in the office of the presidency under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN Party, in the presence of the prime minister and the head of the permanent secretariat of the Central Committee. The Politburo studied the preparations for the elections of the Mouhafazat Bureaus. The party's secretary general stressed the need for taking the measures needed to guarantee the success of these elections, in accordance with the party's charter and the Central Committee's recommendations. The Politburo also heard a report presented by the minister of foreign affairs on the country's foreign policy. The minister of energy and petrochemical industries gave a report on energy policy. [Text] [Algiers AL MOUDJAHID in French 21 Aug 80 p 1] 8143

WILAYA COUNCIL WORKING METHODS--Algiers (APS)--A coordination meeting was held yesterday afternoon in the Zirout Youcef Palace in the presence of Boualem Benhamouda, member of the Politburo, and minister of interior; and Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Central Committee and head of the FLN permanent secretariat of the Central Committee. This meeting was devoted to a report on a bill establishing the working methods of coordinating councils at the wilaya level, in accordance with guidelines provided by the president of the republic and the party's secretary general and in application of the party's basic charter and internal regulations, particularly the articles dealing with the prerogatives and attributions of the coordination councils. During this meeting, it was decided to set up a working group in which all the concerned organizations will be represented and which will work under the aegis of the general organization commission to examine and improve the draft legislation under consideration which will be submitted for approval to the Central Committee at its next meeting. [Text] [Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 12 Aug 80 p 1] 8143

CSO: 4400

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT LAW

Cairo AL-'IBDAL in Arabic 7 Jul 80 p 5

[Article: "Law No 83 Before the People's Assembly"]

[Text] In a few hours, the most famous Egyptian bill affecting the working class will be submitted to the People's Assembly--the final bill to eliminate all the effects of Law No 83 of 1973.

A report on the law has been prepared by the Manpower Committee of People's Assembly, which is chaired by Husayn Washahi. Continual meetings inside and outside the committee had been held with People's Assembly President Dr Sufi Abu-Talib and with Deputy Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi-al-Din.

There had been discussion among the representatives of the people and officials of the finance ministry about some of the abolished provisions to be covered by the new law, which led to the law's not being included in the budget discussion. However, a number of People's Assembly representatives and government officials have agreed to consider the workers' and employees' demands for total equality, especially since President al-Sadat, when he decreed the payment of allowances equal to 6 months' wages on the occasion of the workers' celebrations of May Day, did not discriminate between state and public sector employees.

A meeting was held last week, attended by Deputy Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi-al-Din, Committee Chairman Husayn Washahi, Vice President of the Labor Federation Mukhtar 'Abd-al-Hamid, People's Assembly Members Rajab al-Sa'di and Ahmad Idris, President of the Central Agency for Organization and Administration Dr Hasan Tawfiq, and First Deputy Finance Minister Muhammad 'Abduh.

During the meeting, agreement was reached on a number of principles and bases which were subsequently approved by the committee, which began preparing its comprehensive report on the law. Agreement was reached on the following points.

1. The law includes all professionals in the government and public sector, unskilled clerical personnel, and those employed in auxiliary services,

who have previously-issued certificates of acceptance and degrees received at the end of a 5-year study period.

2. The law must benefit experienced workers, for whom a special bill will be prepared, which the government will submit for debate along with law No. 83.

3. As for pension-holders, it has been decided that those retired as of 1 July 1980 will benefit from Law No 83, in light of the privileges the law grants the workers. As for those who retired prior to 1 July 1980, the government has decided to submit a bill increasing their pensions by 5 percent, the minimum being one pound and the maximum 3 pounds. However, the Manpower Committee has reservations about this law. —I feels that for the sake of fairness the minimum should be increased to 2 pounds.

4. It was agreed that the government would immediately submit a bill increasing the minimum for state and public sector workers, so that all the workers in service will benefit by about 2 pounds. This will be achieved by granting them a so-called gradual allowance.

8559

CS01 492

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER JUSTIFIES HOLDING COMPANY CONCEPT

Cairo AL-'UMMAL in Arabic 14 Jul 80 p 5

[Article by 'Atif Husayn: "The Public Sector Won't Be Eliminated"]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid has announced that it is a crime to say that President Anwar al-Sadat's government will eliminate the public sector, for the government has allocated one-quarter of the national income to strengthen it. President al-Sadat's government has not fired anyone and will not fire anyone, and the workers' rights are maintained everywhere. This remark was made at the conference of the General Union of Commerce Workers, which was attended by Deputy Economy Minister Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz, all the presidents of foreign trade companies, and a large number of their board members, not to mention the leaders of the commerce union and the union committees of foreign trade companies.

Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid explained, "There is no trend towards eliminating the public sector; the trend is to support it. The public sector is a major socialist gain, and we cannot do without the gains which the public sector has won for Egypt and the Egyptian people. It is a safeguard for all of us, and we must support it."

The deputy prime minister went on to say that the industrial public sector companies have not modernized their equipment for a very long time, and that the government of President al-Sadat has allocated 3.2 billion Egyptian pounds to the public sector for investments. He explained that he came to the General Union of Commerce Workers to congratulate the workers of the foreign trade companies on the improvement of their material conditions since the application of financial laws similar to those of the investment authority, which will double salaries, as a decisive result of the establishment of the national export-import bank. He also explained that he had not expected that he would be accused of wanting to eliminate the public sector.

Replacement and Renovation in the Public Sector

The deputy prime minister announced that the only guarantee that the public sector will remain is to spend every millime allocated to support the

public sector on replacement and renovation of this sector's plants, not on expansion into other new installations. It is essential that public sector investments be spent on what they are allocated for.

Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid explained, "When we established the National Investment Bank, some people believed that it would eliminate the Planning Ministry. But it has actually strengthened the Planning Ministry, because it gave it follow-up powers.

"The battle for prosperity and development needs a strong apparatus, and the Planning Ministry is not enough. The establishment of the National Investment Bank was unavoidable, in order to strengthen planning in Egypt."

Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid reviewed the history of the public sector over the past 5 years, saying, "After the abolition of state organizations in 1976, the ministries began oppressing the public sector companies. It became clear to us that the state organizations had been better, because the abolition of state organizations had been aimed at liberating labor but labor was not liberated. The public sector companies came to be at the mercy of the ministries."

The Idea of Holding Companies Did Not Come Out of Nowhere

He explained that today's thinking is heading in the direction of combining a number of companies under the banner of holding companies, which no one, no matter how strong, could dissolve in the future. This idea of holding companies did not come out of nowhere. For example, some of the workers in industrial zones or complexes, such as Shubra al-Khaymah and Hulwan, would be treated fairly, while others would be wronged, when the profits were paid out. Profits basically depend on the prices of the goods which these companies sell, and in the case of some basic commodities the state steps in to lower their prices to bring them within the reach of the struggling classes of the people. Naturally, the companies which produce these goods will have limited profits, as opposed to the companies which do not produce these profits and which are therefore free to set their prices. Consequently, their profits are much more than the others. Therefore, we find a great disparity in profit distribution among the workers located in a single industrial zone, for in some companies the workers' profits amount to 15 days' salary, and in others 2 months' salary. The question which pops up is: What is the crime of the workers in the companies producing basic goods subject to state intervention in price-fixing?

He went on to say, "Establishing a holding company bringing together the Hulwan companies would enable the elimination of this phenomenon. If we assume for the sake of argument the establishment of a holding company called the Hulwan Development Company, to which all the Hulwan companies would be subject, then surely the holding company will make an effort to reconcile

the gains and losses, and will distribute profits equally to every worker in the entire Hulwan zone."

The deputy prime minister confirmed that the present system governing the public sector companies will ultimately lead to the collapse of the public sector, for it will be unable to stand up to the private sector. He explained, "When we say 'holding company,' there are many forms of holding companies. There can be holding companies comprising one kind of company; for example, there can be a holding for all the fertilizer companies nationwide. There can be a holding company for a group of companies working in a group of integrated industries, such as the oil and soap companies and the like. There can be holding companies representing entire industrial zones like Hulwan and Shubra al-Khaymah. In short, our thinking must not be rigid, for every sector has its peculiarities, and there is some kind of holding company that will be good for it."

Foreign Trade and Finance

Then Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid spoke of the foreign trade companies, saying, "Some people are saying that each sector of these companies will have its own holding companies, but the question is: How can all the foreign trade companies be grouped under one holding company? The foremost problem of the foreign trade companies is their indebtedness. The foreign trade operation is primarily a financing operation. Without this, it cannot carry out its work. Getting loans from banks is nothing but trouble, and perpetuating this situation will lead to the public sector's collapse in the foreign trade sector. Commerce cannot proceed without funds, and the private sector is strong in this respect. There must be a strong public sector to stand up to it. If we do not have the financial strength to import basic commodities, we will not be able to function in the foreign trade field."

He explained, "The idea of establishing the national export-import bank was an alternative to establishing a holding company, because holding companies are no good for importing and exporting. What is good for this is a bank. During the coming phase, we need nothing more than intellectual openness, not petrification. We cannot watch the public sector collapse before our very eyes while we stand by with a petrified mentality until it actually does. The idea of such a bank has been carried out in socialist states like Romania, Czechoslovakia and others, as well as in western states. Therefore, the idea of establishing this bank has no ideological connotations."

At the end of his speech, Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his hope that the picture had been made completely clear. He explained that Egypt, in the coming stage, would need all its combined expertise. It would need experience in all fields in order to comprehend the method of managing holding companies, and these holding companies would need expertise to manage the people's capital.

The National Press and the Elimination of Trade Companies

President of the General Union of Commerce Workers 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sharbind delivered a speech at the beginning of the meeting in which he voiced the welcome of the commerce workers, represented by their general union and union committees, for Deputy Prime Minister Dr 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Abd-al-Najid. He explained that the presence of the deputy prime minister at the union headquarters was a good initiative and a commendable procedure, definitely proving the sound democracy which President al-Sadat has anchored.

The union chief reviewed the reasons for this meeting with the deputy prime minister--the apprehension among worker and leadership circles within the domestic trade companies that the government was intending to eliminate the public sector, and the foreign trade companies in particular. This apprehension stemmed from national press coverage of the establishment of the national export-import bank as part of the decision to try to wipe out the financial debt of those companies operating in the foreign trade sphere. This press coverage made it seem that these companies would lose their identity through their absorption into the bank, and aroused a certain amount of mental anxiety among workers and company presidents alike.

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CSO: 4802

PROFITS TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO INDUSTRIAL WORKERS 'NEXT WEEK'

Cairo AL-'UMMAL in Arabic 7 Jul 80 p 1

[Article: "Profits to be Distributed Next Week; 600,000 Workers in Industrial Companies To Receive Profits; Industry Minister Requests Preparation of Lists for Paying Profits to the Workers"]

[Text] Industry Minister Engr Taha Zaki has decreed the preparation of lists for disbursing profits to factory workers, so that disbursement can begin next week.

The minister's instructions require the profits to be figured according to a minimum not less than the amount paid out last year. The amount would be higher according to how far each company fulfilled its goals.

An AL-'UMMAL correspondent has learned that the minister's instructions provide for granting profits to the workers at those companies which realized a profit.

It has been decided that this year about 600,000 workers at 116 industrial companies will benefit from the profits.

The profits, up to a maximum of 75 Egyptian pounds, will be paid to workers at some companies, including the Kima Fertilizer Company, the Egyptian National Chemicals and Plastics Company, the Sugar Company, and the al-Mahallah Textile Plant.

Workers in Non-Industrial Sectors

Furthermore, steps are now being taken to disburse profits to workers in non-industrial companies, now that these companies' budgets have clearly shown that they realized a profit and exceeded their goals as set in the plan.

Flour Mill Workers

It was decided to pay periodic raises and realized profits to the 28,520 workers at flour mill companies. This decision was made after it became

clear that these companies had realized an estimated surplus of 1.54 million pounds, with total production amounting to 157,510,119 pounds.

Al-Ja'murah Workers

It was also decided to pay a bonus equivalent to 5 months' wages to the workers at the al-Ja'murah Company, and a maximum profit share, as well as a periodic raise of 100 percent.

Foodstuff Workers

It was also decided to pay all the profits to all the workers at the 11 foodstuff companies, as well as periodic raises to all of them. Some 23,997 men and women workers will benefit from this decision.

Warehouse and Shipping Agency Workers

Minister of Transport, Communication and Maritime Transport Engr Sulayman Mitwalli has decided to pay a bonus equivalent to 2 months' wages to the workers at the Egyptian Warehouses Company and the Alexandria Shipping Company, in addition to a periodic raise of 100 percent. The warehouse company's net profit was 10 million pounds, 47 percent over the goal. It was also decided to pay profits equivalent to 45 days' wages to the workers.

As for the Alexandria Shipping Company, its profits amounted to 19 million pounds, 10 million pounds over the target. It has been decided to pay the maximum profit share of 75 pounds to the workers there.

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CSO: 4802

URBAN LABOR FORCE INCREASING, CONSTRUCTION WORKER WAGES RISING

Cairo AL-'UMMAL in Arabic 14 Jul 80 p 5

[Article by Rif'at Khalidi: "Fewer Investments in the Countryside is Cause of Concentration of Labor in the Cities and Migration; Lack of a Clear Training Policy is Behind the Rise in Construction Workers' Wages")]

[Text] A report by the Manpower Branch of the Specialized National Councils has shown that emigration overseas has increased in recent years, and that the lack of a clear policy for training and meeting occupational shortages has led to an increase in construction workers' wages. Also, the decline in investments directed towards the countryside has led to a concentration of workers in the cities. Furthermore, there is the natural decline in certain workers and continued vocational training under the old method. But what do the officials say?

Head of the Specialized National Council's Manpower Branch 'Abd-al-Latif Baltiyah says that one factor influencing the labor force and especially the construction sector is the phenomenon of migrating overseas to work, which has increased in recent years, and which the Planning Ministry estimates at about 1.5 million workers or 3.7 percent of the total population. This has led to a great shortage in the skilled artisan and professional labor force and to instability in the construction industry because of its sensitivity to economic fluctuations.

Training Without Policy

There is also another important point--the lack of a firm training policy, in addition to the existing training centers; shortcomings from the standpoint of quantity, quality, and modern scientific advancement.

The Professional Labor Force is Declining.

Dr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir Hatim, general supervisor for the Specialized National Councils, says that a problem exists in the natural decline in the professional labor force because of old age, disability and death, as well as the fact that the professions are no longer handed down as they once were.

Accumulation of Workers in the Cities

Since the facts indicate a serious situation with respect to the accumulation of workers in the cities, what is responsible for this?

Dr Hatim adds that the decline in investments directed towards the countryside is responsible for this, along with the settling of industries and services in the urban areas, which helps perpetuate the accumulation of workers in the cities as a result of the continual internal migration and the accompanying shortage of skills in the countryside and the increased flow of non-skilled workers to the cities. It is worth mentioning that the urban population amounts to about 54 percent of the total population.

What the Figures Say

We looked at the statistics prepared by the Manpower Branch of the Specialized National Councils dealing with the labor force employed in economic activities and in the service and production sectors. Workers employed in the economic activities of service sectors make up about 40 percent of the total labor force, while their wages amount to about 37.6 percent of the total wages. As for the production sectors, they make up about 60 percent of the total labor force, with their wages constituting about 42.4 percent of the total. Wages have increased in recent years, and in a fantastic way for construction workers in particular. This is a serious indication, and there must be some kind of intervention to stop this increase occurring at the expense of the citizens.

Figures show that during the 10 years from 1960 to 1970, construction workers' wages rose between 15 to 50 percent. Since 1970 up to today, these wages have risen between 200 and 600 percent. This increase includes auxiliary professions as well. The construction worker who was paid 80 piasters a day in 1962 gets 3 Egyptian pounds a day now. The reinforcing carpenter has gone from 60 piasters to 3.5 pounds; the smelter from 70 piasters to 5 pounds; the whitewasher from 60 piasters to 3 pounds; the painter from 70 piasters to 3 pounds; and the electrician from 30 piasters to 3 pounds 20 piasters.

Analysis of the Graduate Labor Force

Analyzing the labor force made up of graduates of universities, industrial schools and professional institutes and their contribution to the Egyptian labor force, the Manpower Branch report shows that university graduates make up about 6 percent of the labor force, graduates of industrial schools about 8 percent, and professionals who graduated from training schools about 6 percent of the labor force. The uneducated and untrained, most of whom are refugees from the countryside, make up about 8 percent of the labor force.

11.9 Million Employed Persons in 1982

The statistical report on the labor force indicates that the labor force is now estimated at 9.72 million workers, and is expected to rise to about 11.9 million workers in 1982, at an average yearly rate of increase of about 4 percent. This rate is expected to increase in following years because of a number of factors, the most important being the increase in the working-age population and an increase in women's contribution to economic activity. There is another important point made by the report relating to the number of people past the productive age. The overall percentage of persons not of productive age, i.e. younger than 12 years and older than 65 years, is expected to drop from 33.6 percent in 1976 to 31.9 percent of the total population in 1987, because of an anticipated drop in the birth rate and a change in the customs of the populace.

The report boils down to the need to support technical education in various fields, to prepare the labor force and the working and technical cadres needed to serve production and development, and to expand the training institutes which will prepare a constant, experienced technical labor force according to the most modern scientific methods and advanced technology, in the context of international cooperation.

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CSO: 4802

NEW LAW REGULATES EMPLOYMENT OF EGYPTIAN SEAMEN

Cairo AL-'UDJAL in Arabic 7 Jul 80 pp 1, 4

[Article: "New Statute to Regulate Employment of 30,000 Egyptian Seamen on Arab and Foreign Vessels; Job Opportunities To Be Made Available Without Intercession; Insurance Coverage To Be Extended to Them"]

[Text] The Manpower and Vocational Training Ministry has decided to draw up a new statute to regulate the employment of 30,000 Egyptian seamen working on Arab and foreign vessels, to provide them job opportunities without intercession, to eliminate their problems, and to extend insurance coverage to them.

It has been decided that those seamen whose names are registered on the membership rolls of the union committees at Egyptian ports will be subject to the new law, as well as those working on Arab and foreign ships of whatever type.

Minister Said Muhammad Ahmad held a meeting last week which was attended by representatives of the Maritime Transport Ministry, the Social Insurance Ministry, the Interior Ministry, and the General Federation of Labor Unions, at which the new statute and its implementation was discussed.

The new law includes a number of clauses, one of which provides that every worker or seaman requesting work should submit his request to the employment bureau, accompanied by his personal or family identification card, a certificate of good behavior from the manpower bureau, his maritime passport, and a license to work for foreigners permitted to reside in Egypt. The bureau will nominate the seamen according to whoever comes first in the listing for each profession. In case the captain rejects the nominee for substantial reasons, the employment bureau will nominate the man next on the list. Renomination more than three times is not allowed.

The seamen who are accepted for work on the ship must obtain a statement of approval of his appointment from the director of the employment bureau, to be presented to the port passport department. In no case can any seamen

who does not have a statement of approval from the employment bureau, he is permitted to work on a ship.

The shipping agency commissioner will draw up a work contract for the worker accepted by the ship's captain, in one original and five copies for the captain, the seaman, the shipping agency, the maritime inspection office, and the employment bureau, in the format agreed to by the General Union for Maritime Transport.

The law requires each appointed maritime worker to pay the sum of 6 Egyptian pounds as an employment fee, to which will be added the sum of 3 pounds 600 millimes as union membership fees.

The minister explained that according to this statute, membership will be limited to seamen. Domestic elements will be sifted out, so as to limit it to seamen who are actually practicing the profession, and to remove fictitious names from the membership rolls.

Joint work contracts will also be concluded with shipowners and their agents in the ports, and bases for regulating the employment of seamen and protecting their rights will be drawn up. Professional training centers for seamen will be established to increase their technical skill and educational level.

Muhammad Ahmad added that the law includes the formulation of an insurance law for Egyptian seamen, to protect them from the dangers of old age, disability and death. An insurance card will be handed out to unemployed workers.

In another context, it has been decided to make the employment bureaus for Egyptian maritime workers working on foreign ships in Alexandria, Port Sa'id and Suez Governorates subject to the supervision of the General Union for Maritime Transport, and the union president will draw up its current administrative system.

Also, a permanent committee will be formed to supervise the activities of the bureaus, to be formed of representatives from the manpower directorate, the General Union for Maritime Transport, and the shipping agencies.

8559

CSO: 4802

OFFICIALS DESCRIBE LITERACY PROGRAM FOR WORKERS

Cairo AL-'USMAL in Arabic 14 Jul 80 p 2

[Article: "Class Study Hours Must Be Reconciled With Working Hours"]

[Text] Nine years after the workers' literacy programs were assigned to the Workers' Cultural Organization, many people are asking whether the organization has succeeded in carrying out the experiment. What are the difficulties? What is happening now? This investigation into the organization is an attempt to answer these questions.

Director of the workers' Cultural Organization's Literacy Department Muhammad al-Mahdawi says, "There are more than 6 million workers suffering from the problem of illiteracy, which represents a national issue which we all must combat.

"The idea of assigning the task of combatting workers' illiteracy to the organization originated in 1971. The idea boils down to an attempt to graduate literacy teachers from among the workers themselves, on the basis of nominations by the union organization, whereby the candidate would study the basics and methods of instructing adult workers for several months at the organization's Worker Education Institute. This experiment has been successful, and more than 2,000 worker-teachers have been graduated. The experiment has shown that the literacy classes by institute graduates have been 95 percent successful, whereas the literacy classes run by Education Ministry teachers have been only 65 percent successful. In spite of this, the experiment was suspended until 1977, at which time the Workers' Cultural Organization reached an agreement with the Arab Labor Organization to offer literacy classes to 10,000 workers over a period of 2 years.

"After this agreement was signed, Minister of Manpower and Head of the General Federation of Labor Unions Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, in his capacity as head of the organization, issued a decree forming a supreme committee for workers' literacy, chaired by the federation's vice president."

Vice President of the General Federation of Labor Unions and Head of the Supreme Literacy Committee Mukhtar 'Abd-al-Hamid says, "The committee has

prepared a workers' strategy to confront the problem of illiteracy among the workers, aimed at liberating the Egyptian worker from both his functional and cultural illiteracy at once.

"This strategy has been divided into a number of stages for reaching the goal, as follows:

1. Preparation--this stage begins after data is collected and the illiterate workers are classified. The General Federation of Egyptian Labor Unions will draw up a method of clarifying the basic socio-economic features of a worker society, and will get the teachers ready.
2. Implementation--this stage will last 5 years starting in 1978, and efforts will be made to combat illiteracy among workers of all sectors.
3. Mopping-up--this stage will last 2 years, in order to eliminate any pockets of illiteracy left over from the implementation stage. The sources of illiteracy will be terminated by making elementary education compulsive and universal, and by achieving integration between school and non-school education."

The head of the committee adds that implementation of this strategy, whereby 150 classes would be opened in 1977 in the various governorates and another 200 classes in 1978, has actually started. Implementation exceeded the plan by 15 percent in 1977, since 168 classes were opened that year. The organization will open more than 400 classes this year.

One of the obstacles facing the experiment, says the head of the literacy committee, is the obvious phenomenon of worker absenteeism due to the work system at various installations, especially since the experiment follows the shift system. Therefore, there must be some reconciliation between work hours and class study hours. Also, the worker wants to utilize the time he spends studying in other matters which he may feel are more serious than education.

Finally, says the head of the Supreme Literacy Committee, in order for the experiment to continue to be successful, the following recommendations made by the committee ought to be adopted.

1. The technical and cultural cooperation agreement with the Arab Labor Organization should be renewed for 2 more years, the number of participating workers should be increased to 25,000 workers, and the appropriations made by the organization should be increased to 150,000 Egyptian pounds.
2. Some of the money from fines which is in the Manpower Ministry's fine fund should be allocated for disbursement to the organization's anti-illiteracy plan.

3. Some of the Education Ministry's funds for opening public and national sector literacy classes should be transferred to the organization, to enable it to open literacy classes for private sector workers.

8559

CSO: 4802

SEWER WORKERS' JOB CONDITIONS DEPLORED

Cairo AL-'UMMAL in Arabic 14 Jul 80 pp 3,5

[Article by Nadiyah Sultan: "12,000 Workers Living Amid the Dangers of Disease and Death!"]

[Text] Some 12,000 workers are living amid dangers and diseases which threaten their lives, their future, and the future of their families. These workers are the sewer workers. A disconcerting anomaly is that they lose their health while preserving the health of the people. Although everyone knows that 90 percent of them are stricken with life-endangering diseases, no one thinks of alleviating the troubles of that hard-working group. Al-'Ummal met with a group of sewer workers inside their places of work.

Muhammad Ahmad Sayyid, a diver who has worked with the authority for 10 years, says that sewer workers of various professions are exposed to many dangers and diseases which threaten their lives and their future. The worker is exposed to the sun's heat in summer and the freezing winter cold, in addition to having to breathe polluted air and immerse himself in water and filth. All of this subjects him to disease, especially chest diseases, which are considered the most dangerous type.

Nevertheless, we find that the authority and the state in general have been remiss in its duty towards this group, which represents the cleanliness of the state as a whole. It does not provide protective clothing or food rations, except a half-kilo of cheese a month.

Worker Muhammad Ahmad Sayyid continued, "When we look at sewer workers we find that about 90 percent of them suffer from diseases, and the medical treatment are totally insufficient. The authority gives us a mere 15 percent nature-of-work allowance, and an infection allowance of 25 percent a month. Naturally, this is not at all commensurate with the difficult nature of our work. We are exposed to danger, and we demand that the state show special concern for the sewer workers, so as to give them their full rights and an incentive not to leave this profession, which is both dangerous and difficult at the same time."

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Sami' 'Isma'il, who works as a diver for the State Sanitation Authority, says, "The nature of our work is extremely difficult, and causes us many diseases. It makes no sense for us to be treated the same as those who work in offices. Sufficient proof of this is to say that whenever any person smells a horrible smell from anywhere, he immediately hurries to leave that place because of the repulsive smell. What about the workers whose profession is diving in sewers, with their smell and the diseases they cause? Isn't this enough reason to grant the sewer worker a nature-of-work allowance totally different from that given other groups which sit behind desks?"

He went on to say, "Granting sewer workers' nature-of-work allowances in keeping with their jobs is no heresy. We're working at a profession which is considered one of the most difficult, dangerous professions."

One Pound for the Worker and Five for the Engineer

Chief of Workers Affairs for the Cairo Sanitation Authority Musaylihi Badir supports these views, and says, "Working in the sewers exposes the workers to many occupational and chest diseases, which leads them to flee the job. We also find that the workers gets only one Egyptian pound as an infection allowance, or 75 piasters after deductions. Meanwhile, the engineer supervising the network gets 5 pounds, without being exposed to infection at all.

"We find that the sewer worker works 8 hours a day, and is not given protective clothing or equipment. Also, he gets no meals except a half kilo of cheese per month. Furthermore, the sewer workers work on the shift system while everyone else is sleeping and relaxing at home. We find that the sewer worker works day and night without anyone seeing him."

Five Piasters Per Dive

Musaylihi Badir adds, "There are divers, who immerse themselves in the polluted water and the terrible smell. We find them being treated like an ordinary worker in all respects. When they dive, they get only an additional 5 piasters for each dive, which might last for hours while they clear the sewer. The supervisor punishes the worker who refuses to immerse himself, and the incentives, i.e. about one-quarter of his salary, are deducted."

Worker Faruq Musaylihi 'Asad-allah, who is a carpenter for the sanitation authority, builds supports for the sewers, which exposes him to many dangers. Nevertheless, the authority gives him a 7.5 percent nature-of-work allowance, some incentives, and the sum of only one pound as an infection allowance, from which about 25 percent is deducted for the war effort. Even though Law No. 47 of 1978 provides for the granting of increased allowances and bonuses, the authority even now has not given us the increased allowances, and is still paying us according to the old system."

Mustafa Lutfi, a general supervisor for the sanitation garage, brings up another problem. The authority hires divers at 20 pounds a month, without giving them any other bonuses such as their colleagues driving for other authorities get. This leads to a great shortage of drivers, which results in an interruption of work.

Sewer Workers and Perfume Workers

AL-'ISMAL met with 'Abd-al-Fattah Badr, secretary of the general federation and president of the union committee for sanitation workers, who spoke of the union committee's efforts to solve these problems. He said that about 6 months ago the committee requested the head of the sanitation authority, the officials of the People's Assembly, the cabinet, and the Housing Minister in particular, inasmuch as the authority is subject to this ministry, to raise the nature-of-work allowance to 40 percent, on the basis of the articles of Law No. 47 of 1978 pertaining to state employees. It is illogical and unacceptable for sewer workers to be on an equal footing with the perfume company workers as far as allowances go, and for workers at these latter companies to be paid a 40 percent nature-of-work allowance.

'Abd-al-Fattah Badr went on to say that this topic is now being studied by the Central Agency for Organization and Administration, in order to raise the nature-of-work allowance for sanitation workers. Also, the People's Assembly Housing Committee, chaired by Engr Muhibb Istino, has prepared a bill for a special statute for sewer workers' wages. A committee in which the union committee is represented has been formed at the authority to work on this wage bill.

A Strange Anomaly

As for the infection allowance, he says, "It makes no sense to perpetuate the strange anomaly whereby the sewer workers who go down into polluted water get 75 piasters, while we find that the engineer who sits in his office and does not undergo the workers' problems gets 5 pounds a month." 'Abd-al-Fattah Badr has demanded that this group be protected from all the dangers surrounding them, that the sewer workers have a special wage law, and that they not be exposed to any more dangers than mine and quarry workers face.

Asthma and Rheumatism

Speaking of the health dangers to which sewer workers are exposed, Dr Sami Rashid Tadrus, a doctor at the Cairo Sanitation Authority, says that the most dangerous disease from which more than 90 percent of the authority's workers suffer is bronchial asthma, which results from the workers' descending into polluted water and breathing harmful odors. Usually, this disease first appears as a bronchial cold which then develops into bronchial asthma. It will rapidly develop into something more serious if the workers continue doing the same job. There is another disease, rheumatism

of the joints, which is the second most widespread disease among the authority's workers.

Dr Sami points out that there is more than one way to make sure that those workers who spend their lives serving the citizens are protected. First of all, protective clothing must be handed out, including gas masks, which will reduce the workers' exposure to disease. Then there must be a regular medical check-up for the workers at least once a year, if not every 6 months. This would greatly benefit the workers, especially in discovering disease in its early stages and preventing its subsequent complication.

He adds that one of the most important ways of reducing the disease rate among workers is to transfer any worker who has been found to be afflicted with disease to some other job within the authority suitable to his health condition. Otherwise, he will be left a victim of disease, to such a degree as to possibly cause his death.

A Shameful Thing

Engr 'Abd-al-Hun'im al-'Ashmawi, board chairman of the State Sanitation Authority, has responded to the serious questions which the workers have raised, saying that the sewer workers are exposed to many occupational hazards and diseases as a result of their exposure to filth and environmental pollution. Even though the authority provides protective clothing for the divers, the workers refuse to use it, on the pretext that it hampers their movement. Also, the authority provides food for the workers, in addition to free medical treatment, and also pays incentives and allowances which can add up to 60 percent of the wages. As for the infection allowance, the authority pays 75 piasters a month to each worker, which is unfortunately a disgrace.

A Special Package for the Workers

Engr al-'Ashmawi adds that the authority has prepared a special package for sewer workers, including insurance and retirement, similar to the law for workers in dangerous and difficult jobs. The bill has been submitted to the National Democratic Party, and will be discussed by the People's Assembly during its current session.

The authority's chairman of the board is presenting a number of proposals for ways of getting the workers to remain in this profession.

1. There should be a special package for sewer workers so as to achieve some conformity between work and wages.
2. The pension statute for sewer and sanitation workers should be amended to take into account the number of years of actual service, figured by year and half-year, when calculating the pension, in view of the dangers to which they are exposed. This should be similar to pensions for mine workers.

3. Production incentives for the workers should be set at 100 percent of the average salary and wage.

4. The infection and nature-of-work allowances for sewer and sanitation workers should be re-examined and figured in brackets according to the nature and danger of the job.

5. A training center subordinate to the authority should be established to train the workers so as to increase their efficiency, inasmuch as the modern machines and equipment being used to clean out the sewers require a great deal of skill.

Will these proposals be implemented? Will the state respond to the urgent demands of this group, which has suffered for so long and is still suffering?

8559

CSO: 4802

STATISTICS ON JOB ACCIDENTS, LOST TIME RELEASED

Cairo AL-ITSAAL in Arabic 7 Jul 80 p 3

[Article: "The State Loses 21 Million Pounds a Year Through Work Accidents and Absenteeism"]

[Text] A report by the manpower and vocational training ministry confirms that the state is losing more than 21 million Egyptian pounds a year because of workers' accidents and unexcused absenteeism.

The report says that in recent years there has been a continual increase in work accidents, which amounted to 135,000 cases last year, after having been 96,000 cases 10 years ago.

The report mentions that work accidents in four textile companies amounted to 1,235 cases, while there are 17,400 workers at these companies. There were 60,781 days of absence because of these accidents, in addition to the estimated 19,000 pounds paid in wages for injured workers. Lost time cost 9,658 pounds during the period from January to December 1979.

As for the engineering and electrical industries sector, the report indicates that there were 179 accidents in three companies employing 3,861 workers, and lost time just 3,495 pounds.

The report mentions that during 1979, there were 1,276,000 days lost at all the 161,843 installations throughout the republic, because of non-occupational illness, accidents, and job accidents, which increased the losses suffered by production.

The report also explains that this phenomenon is due to many causes, including the worker himself, the lack of industrial safety equipment and potentials, and the proliferation of agencies supervising industrial safety.

WORKING WIVES SEE COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AS INADEQUATE

Cairo AL-'USMAL in Arabic 7 Jul 80 p 5

[Article] "The Working Woman Says That the 3-pound Allowance is Not Enough!"

[Text] The married working woman still has a problem with the cost-of-living allowance. Even if it is decided to treat her the same as a bachelor, whereby she would obtain 3 pounds as an inflation allowance, she nevertheless says that this is not enough, that her rights are still being trampled on, and that this allowance is just barely enough to buy a kilogram of meat.

Dr Lu'lu' Ya'qub, a doctor at the al-Manshiyah al-Kubra General Hospital, says that government wages are very low. Assuming that the cost-of-living allowance was the same for the working wife as for the husband, these 3 pounds make absolutely no sense.

'A'idah Jirjis, an employee, asks, "What shall I do with this tiny sum? How can the unmarried working woman be equal to the married working woman?"

Zaynah Muhammad Rajab, an employee at the Agricultural Credit Bank; 'Afifah Sami, an employee and mother of one son and one daughter; and Out al-Qalub Muhammad, an employee and a mother, are all demanding an increase in the inflation allowance for women with children. They all emphasize that they would prefer price reductions to getting this allowance.

Balal Hasan al-'Avda, an employee, widow, and the mother of a son and a daughter, asks why a decree has not yet been issued pertaining to widows. She is demanding an allowance just like that a husband gets, since her circumstances are the same as his, for she is supporting a family and must get a cost-of-living allowance figured on the same basis as a male, married worker's allowance is.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DENOUNCES HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Appeal to Prime Minister

Paris LE MONDE in French 30 Aug 80 p 1

[Text] Amnesty International, the humanitarian organization, on Friday, 29 August, published an appeal addressed to Iranian Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Rajai, asking him to put an end "to the executions and arrests which persons are victims of only because of their origin or their convictions."

In the letter addressed to Mr Rajai on 19 August, Amnesty International "expresses its profound concern over the repeated violations of human rights committed since the revolution and particularly over the large number of executions which have taken place. The right to a fair and equitable trial has constantly been denied the persons who were hauled before the Islamic Revolutionary tribunals."

Attached to the letter from Amnesty International was a voluminous report on the problems of legislation and the rights of man in Iran. This report, based on the findings of a mission which went to Iran in 1979 and on the study of hundreds of trials, concludes that numerous persons were executed without having the right to a fair and equitable trial. The report had prior to publication been addressed to the Iranian authorities last January but the organization has so far not received any response to the various questions raised.

The letter addressed to the prime minister also expresses Amnesty International's worry "about the growing number of arrests of persons considered to be opponents by the Iranian authorities, including even members of parliament. In many cases, the persons arrested had been active opponents of the regime of the shah and some had even been imprisoned by virtue of their political views.

"The arrests of members of the Bahai, Jewish and more recently Christian communities seem to cast doubt upon the spirit of religious tolerance which was believed to prevail after the revolution and which was reflected

in the new Iranian constitution. "Several members of these communities had to undergo lengthy detentions without any charges of trials and others were sentenced to death," Amnesty International writes furthermore before indicating that "it would with satisfaction receive any opportunity of discussing its preoccupations with the Iranian prime minister or with diplomatic representatives of his country."

RE: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Paris 16 MONTH in French 30 Aug. 60 p. 1.

[Editorial: "The Iranian Republic Needs"]

[Text] In numerous (2) forms, Amnesty International, the humanitarian organization, has just denounced the violations of human rights in Iran: arbitrary arrests, trials, and summary executions "of which persons are victims by virtue of their origin or their views." These accusations are shocking, coming from a perfectly independent institution which by the way has never stopped denouncing those whom the shah was persecuting. It suffices to recall that, among the numerous prisoners "adopted" by Amnesty, under the imperial regime, was the Azerbaijani Mottahari, who today has become the spiritual father of Imam Khomeini.

Although the leaders in Tehran -- as a matter of principle, disdain any humanitarian protestations coming from the "Western oppressors," they should at least be concerned with the political consequences of a repression which continues to uproot or exasperate a growing number of their fellow citizens who are neither "pro-revolutionary" nor "counter-revolutionary." The Iranians did not want the imperial regime so that one could create, without any form of trial, officers who have been detained for one or two decades, homosexuals, small-time women, drug traffickers, Jews or Bahais, nor to have songs of filth considered "too intimate" to one or the other militia band. There is no doubt that such actions are not to be found among most of the Iranians who practice a kind of militia Islam which by the way played a certain revolutionary role.

Nations have short memories. The Iranian leaders should not count on the eternal appreciation of men and women who, 18 months after the establishment of the republic, do not feel that they are governed, who have not yet been told about the projects designed to resolve the serious economic and social problems from which they suffer. The country has between 2 and 4 million unemployed. Almost all of the nationalized industries are running in the red, just like the government itself which cannot balance its budget in spite of petroleum revenues. Imported products are becoming increasingly rare. The rate of inflation has reached and exceeded 30 percent. Under these conditions, can one imagine the reaction of the "disinherited" to the endless meetings held by premier-minister Bakhtiari who, he says, is trying to form a "100-percent Islamic government?"

The incoherence of the behavior of the leaders, partly due to their inexperience, is spreading to the political arena. While the integrity of national territory is seriously threatened, both by the harrasing actions of the Iraqi armed forces and by potential American military intervention, everything goes on as if certain officials were trying to surround the Islamic Republic in a kind of splendid isolation," by simultaneously taking on Europe, the USSR, almost all of the Muslim countries which are charged with being "reactionary" or "anti-Islamic." Domestically, these same officials strike out against the right and the left, against the royalists and the communists, against progressive and extreme left-wing Marxist Muslims, against national or religious minorities.

Although divided, the royalist opposition has considerable resources and powerful support abroad: the United States, Egypt, Iraq, just to mention a few of them, are supplying arms, training camps, and radios. The Iraqi army and government are full of people who want the old regime back. The Iranian nation is disappointed and tired. To put an end to arbitrary procedure, insecurity, and privations, one cannot rule out that it might resign itself to a restoration, disguised or open.

3058

CSC:4900

CHIEF PROSECUTOR WARNS POLITICAL GROUPS ON ACTIVITIES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Aug 80 p. 1

[Text] If a problem ever does exceed the limits of the law we will act on the provisions we have in these matters. These provisions are very clear and must be decisively enforced.

Not only are these people doing things not in accordance with the constitution, but some of them claim to have grievances themselves.

According to the constitution, all the country's courts must be administered by the Supreme Judicial Council.

Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili, Chief Prosecutor, in an exclusive interview yesterday with KEYHAN, gave his views concerning the convening of the judges' seminar, the district courts, the revolutionary courts, and the visible and non visible activities of some political groups.

Concerning the aim of the judge's seminar, Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili said: The reason for forming this seminar is that it is felt that the courts and the revolutionary courts ought to remain in place due to exigencies in our society, just as His Holiness the Imam has ordered, and society itself and the people also want this. Knowing that in any area where there are no revolutionary courts, we are presented by the inhabitants of that area, who ask us to form revolutionary courts day and night. It is a reality that the courts and the revolutionary courts must be functioning now because of the needs and desires of the people. Therefore furnishings must be found for them and whatever deficiencies and difficulties they have must be put aside now. Since all the country's courts of justice must be administered by the Supreme Judicial Council according to the Imam's orders and according to the constitution, the Supreme Judicial Council has called upon all judges and revolutionary trial courts to rally around this point, to talk on the same series of issues, to follow the same methods and points of view, and to come to unanimous agreement concerning the issues that are to arise in order that they may be of one kind throughout the country.

The Chief Prosecutor then stressed that this seminar will only undertake to study issues pertaining to the courts and the revolutionary courts.

Ayatollah Ardabili said: The call for unity is not a new issue. This is a central issue for the Imam and the nation, but unfortunately some politicians and some persons have not adopted a correct attitude towards this order of the Imam and the desire of the people. Naturally the Imam has decided to confront this critical issue.

Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili then said concerning the activities of some political groups: If a problem ever once exceeds the limits of the law we will act on the provisions we have in these matters. These provisions are very clear and must be decisively enforced.

The Chief Prosecutor added: We have reminded these groups many times and we have asked them to bring their activities in line with the constitution. Insofar as they do not do this we will be obliged to put the legal provisions pertaining to them into effect. Not only are these people doing things not in accordance with the constitution, but some of them claim to have grievances themselves. Again we call on these people to desist from activities that can only be called counterrevolutionary at this stage of the revolution. If they wish to engage in sound political activities, there is no need for plotting and instigation. For example, an organization came to me and complained as an organization. I told them we didn't know anything about their organization. We knew nothing of their central group, their general body or their institution, and we had no information about them. How could we investigate the problems of an organization of which we were totally ignorant? I told them, if you want us to officially acknowledge your complaints and charges, we must know about you. They said we cannot give you any of this information because of security considerations, and we want you to acknowledge us just as you know us. Where in this world is such a practice customary?

The Chief Prosecutor then stressed: The people will give these groups a period of respite, and if they do not come around we will take legal action.

He added: Of course, since we don't want to create a new problem in the country, we are therefore now confronting the issues as we think it proper, and if these problems cannot be resolved in other ways, naturally we must decisively bring forward legal methods.

Musavi Ardabili then said concerning the election of the prime minister, Mr. Razi'i, in our view and from the standpoint of religion, is extremely reliable, and we know him to be a true Muslim and a person who has struggled for many years. We hope, God willing and with the cooperation of the Majlis, the President of the Republic, and other revolutionary organizations, that everyone will unitedly carry the revolution forward at this sensitive stage.

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ARTICLE DEPLORABLE CHAOS/CONFUSION OF ARMED FORCES

Tehran BASIRAN in Persian 21/11/80 p. 7

[Article: "The Army is the Backbone of National Defense"]

[Text] Do not sacrifice the Islamic Republic institutions to factional rivalries.

All parts of the army should make for its strengthening.

All deviant views on the army have a common denominator: the gradual or abrupt liquidation of the army.

The recent counterrevolutionary conspiracy, because it was conceived within the army, made the role of the army and the attitude toward this revolutionary institution an issue of the day again.

The current debates about the army these days all have sharply divergent directions. On the one hand, a group of people have questioned the merits of the entire army simply because there is a handful of counterrevolutionary elements in the army. On the other hand, a large number of forces and the mass of the people have showered the army with praise and increased deference because of the existence of brave soldiers and noncommissioned, as well as commissioned officers in the army and because the deviant personnel of the army itself was the principal factor in uncovering and foiling the recent plot.

The approach to be adopted vis-a-vis the army has been an unscriptable enigma since the very inception of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. Under the previous regime, the army was, on the one hand, an instrument for repressing the people by the Shah while, there have been many democratic traditions in the history of the same army. On the other, which, given the structure of the army which comprises mostly soldiers, noncommissioned as well as commissioned officers, seems only natural and justifiable.

In the era of the revolution, Iran thought took note of the ambivalence inherent in the army, based on the dominance of a handful of nonimperialist and patriotic officers over the army and on the existence of imperialist

personnel who comprised the substantial majority of the composition of this political institution. The Imam rightly adopted a dual policy toward the Army and wisely appealed to the patriotism of the majority of the officers and to the revolutionary spirit of the soldiers and non-commissioned personnel who had all risen from the toiling classes of the society. This dual policy toward the army of the reactionaries which was poised as the principal enemy for crushing the Revolution, was paralyzed and came apart at the seams. The validity of this dual policy of the Imam's toward the army was borne out in practice by the fact that the huge numbers from the army personnel joined the revolution.

Such a clear-sighted and practice-tested policy should have remained as the basic policy toward the army after the Revolution. Basically, insistence on such a policy compelled a mere handful of the traitors and those with unimpeachable links to flee or to be beaten down or outcast while this purge and the reorganization of the Army under the principal mottoes of the Revolution, namely: the application of Islamic Republican principles, non-reliance on the West or the East, independence, freedom, and social justice put the army solidly in the service of the people and in the cause of Iran's independence and territorial integrity.

However, after the revolution, the enemies of the Islamic Republic played on the feelings seething among the people and spread slogans in favor of the disbandment of the army. Breached at the level of the society, by such notorious groups as the leaders of the guerrilla organization and by Kianuri's gang, the slogans impressed some of the forces within the ranks of the revolutionaries, but it was foiled by the alertness of the leadership of the revolution and by the responsible authorities of the government both of which enjoyed the informed support of the mass of the people. It was soon clear that by hiding behind the mask of seemingly revolutionary slogans, the Soviet and American backed counterrevolutionaries intended to deprive the Islamic Republic of Iran of the institutions that defended Iran's independence and territorial integrity and to pave the way for realizing their ulterior motives.

The bloody clashes that started in all corners of the country after the revolution, and then the instantaneous events involving Iraq and Afghanistan, lucidly showed the motives of the conspirators for disarming the Islamic Republic of Iran via the disbandment of the Army. These events laid bare the real purposes of those people hidden behind their demagogic slogans.

It was for this very reason that the "Disarm the Army" slogan was rightly written off as one subservient to Imperialism and Social-Imperialism and counterrevolution, while the enemy had not yet discarded his heinous plan. When the agents of the Eastern and Western superpowers realized that the people were aware of the conspiracy for the dissolution of the Army and the fact that the Islamic Republic would not fall for this conspiracy, they concocted another plot which called for the gradual dissolution of the Army (instead of its rapid disbandment). But how? The enemies of the Islamic Republic, throughout this period, tried the following tricks:

1. To collect all the material on the subject of the study (in detail), and (2, 3).
2. To classify the material according to the following:
3. To identify the study's theoretical framework and forms of reference, and to identify the underlying both cognitive patterns.
4. To determine the study's framework.
5. To disseminate the study (and its conclusions).
6. To open the way to the study's results and to generalize conclusions. Also, the Revolutionary Study Group has been active in the Revolution.
7. To find the subject's own social and economic institutions; and,
8. ... (etc.).

By Testimony, in 1976, when the last members of the Brigade attempted to withdraw the arms and to travel to Ciudad Guaymas and to attain their goals.

Also, by comparing the two systems, one can expect to learn how American and American-style labor institutions are doing and how they can learn from within and without, so that they can become more self-sustained, self-financed, more self-organized and self-disciplined, more self-motivated and self-directed, and more self-disposed to serving the revolution.

Despite all these setbacks, and the loss of the initiative of thousands of devoted, brave and revolutionary officers and the participation of the near-total majority of the commissioned and noncommissioned officers, the army did not yield and thus protected and played a positive role in the last 18 months by playing a decisive role in safeguarding the revolution and the territorial integrity of Iran and in following the leadership of the Revolution.

It seems a reasonable assumption that the Army has given more weight to the topic of the day for political reasons. It is unfortunate that some political forces have played into what is, in fact, an Army and Air Force and Air Force extensive propaganda campaign against it without realizing what the ramifications of the policy they have adopted.

Although the various armed forces groups differ from those of the enemies of the revolution, and the latter have adapted this work within the context of fractional responsibilities for the exercise of political power, yet the weakening of the army and pushing of the revolutionary disbandments serve no purpose other than that of the maintenance of the existing regime, as in the case of the Euzkadi garrilla in the Basque Country and those of the army, with a view to its abolition.

From the very beginning, our party denounced the "dissolve the Army" slogan and put forth a logical and revolutionary approach to the problem of the army. In a formulated document which it presented to the preliminary seminar of the National Defense University in the month of Farvardin of the current year [March-April 1980], our party dealt with the various problems relating to national defense, including the tracing of the roots of the existing diversionary views on the army, which views it analyzed and criticized. Inserted in issues Nos 46 through 48 of RANJBAR newspaper, the document says, inter alia: "There is the view that we should not create a strong army but have a diffident force such as the Revolutionary Guards Corps instead. This view does not put much faith in the army and tends to create a separate military force which it can trust. But this view primarily aims at cinching power within the system with the help of a definite force. It does not so much heed the safeguarding of the nation's independence and its unmistakable needs and the impact of these. Secondly it reduces the role of the army in the nation's defence to zero. . . ."

The view that says the command system of the army should be replaced by a council-ruled system governing the army by initiating the decision-making process at the lower echelons in fact creates a built-in susceptibility to infiltration and makes for debilitating the army. This view aims at no less than factionalizing the army because the army they have in mind will soon be converted to a heterogenous amalgam of disparate factions unable, even at its best, to make decisions and to carry out orders because each council would be deciding for itself." Excerpt from RANJBAR, No 48.

The document submitted by our party to the preliminary seminar of the National Defense University also analyzed and derived conclusions from other diversionary views that "the nation needs no army because it is capable of defending the independence of the country", that "the Army needs no heavy hardware. . .", or that "the Army should not have a defensive but an offensive nature". [id.] It is that "Heavy armaments bring dependence while we do not need them anyway."

The various diversionary views about the Army have more or less one thing in common: the elimination or gradual or rapid dissolution of the Army.

The verity of the analyses of the army by our party has been proven in practice and continues to be valid.

Those who today, for any reason, discredit the army, demoralize its personnel, undermine its internal hierarchy, fan the fire of rivalry among the armed forces of the Islamic Republic are not pursuing anything within the framework of their activities by the disintegration of the army.

We believe that these diversionary tendencies harm the revolution irreparably. Had the holders of such views been moved by the best interests of the revolution or were they bound by the guidelines of the Imam, they would behave differently. Has the Imam not lauded the army many times and denounced the efforts for weakening it? Has the Imam not called for the "Army of Islam"? How can he justify the act of weakening the Army and put it down as a revolutionary act in line with the Imam's policy?

we are in a dangerous situation. The enemy is always ready to strike against it and its territorial integrity from the north and the south as the American navy threatens Iran from the south and while we are involved in clashes with Iraq on our Western borders. In other words, we have aggression on all four sides while armed counter revolution is still active inside the country. All in all, there are a thousand dangers to our revolution. Is the weakening of the army in these circumstances anything but putting wind in the sails of the enemy?

The army of the Islamic Republic is still in a latent and should be strengthened and solidified. Even the purge of the military elements from inside the Army should move for its strengthening. To meet the institutions of the Islamic Republic victims of individual rivalries as far as permissible. These rivalries and policies grow away like weeds at the birth of the revolution from within and wreak us as without hands what the enemies did very manage to do with a thousand allies.

Defense and national security in the small or situation of the world, the region and Iran, constitute a radical problem whose solution calls for the unity of all independence-seeking forces.

The basic points of their strategy, as described in the said document, are as follows:

1. Creation of a national and popular army as the guarantor of our national defense and as the basis for immune against imperialism;
2. Promotion and expansion of informed readiness in the army on the basis of democratic decentralization;
3. Promotion and expansion of the spirit of combat and military education within the army in the service of the nation's independence, freedom and social justice;
4. Creation of command and operational unity between the Army and the Revolutionary Corps and attempting to create a 20-million strong army; and,
5. Fanning the army and the other branches of the armed forces with a yardstick which would weed out the agents of the two superpowers and the corrupt and incorrigible elements linked to the previous regime and would prevent these from infiltration.

Only by basing on the foregoing motto and on the unity of all the forces seeking independence, Islamic nationalism and socialism will we succeed in safeguarding the revolution from the many dangers facing it in the field of national defense and security. Only this way can we continue our march forward.

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REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS TO GET AIRBORNE TRAINING

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 80 p 13

[Article: "Revolutionary Guard Commander of Fars: Revolutionary Guardsmen Are Receiving Flight and Airborne Training"]

[Text] The Revolutionary Guard is not affiliated with any party or group. It is an independent organization.

A number of the instigators of the outbreak in Firuzabad have been arrested but no court has convened as yet to investigate them.

Shiraz - KEYHAN correspondent - Dr Mas'ud Khatami, Commander of the Fars Revolutionary Guards, in an exclusive interview with KEYHAN, enumerated the Guard's programs for promoting organizational order, and strengthening the ideological and military dimension. Referring to the Guard's relationship with the religious law magistrate, he declared: The Revolutionary Guard is not affiliated with any party or group. It is an independent organization.

The Revolutionary Guard Commander, in response to a question about what differences exist between the Revolutionary Guards and the Shiraz Religious Magistrate, said

in the Islamic Revolutionary Courts of Shiraz there is an atmosphere we do not expect to see in a revolutionary court. It passes judgement arbitrarily and operates on the basis of influence rather than merit. The Religious Magistrate needs people who are the equivalent of gendarmes, in order to summon anyone on any pretext. They even arrest people without authorization from the Revolutionary Court. Revolutionary Guardsmen will not acquiesce to such activities.

Concerning the non-affiliation of the Revolutionary Guards of Shiraz with any particular party or group, which was the subject of another of the KEYHAN correspondent's questions, Dr Khatami said:

Contrary to enemy rumours, the Guard is in no way affiliated with any party or groups. It is itself an independent organization. Concerning programs that are being prepared and carried out by the Revolutionary Guards, he said:

The Guard is equipped by headquarters. We also have programs in place for establishing organizational order in the various units, and for developing our ideology and putting it into writing as much as possible. Other Guard aims include strengthening the Guard's military capability by forming advanced military training programs such as airborne training, flight training, and training in heavy and extra heavy weapons.

Concerning identification of the instigators of outbreaks in Firuzabad, which led to the deaths of five guardsmen, Dr Khatami said:

It is clear that a tribal chief himself and some of his close companions were the instigators of these outbreaks. Of course a number of lesser, unwittingly loyal tribes became involved in the evil plots of chiefs, but fortunately the zealous tribes, due to their religious beliefs and their Islamic qualities, are not ready to confront the Islamic Republic. As of now a number of instigators of the outbreak have been arrested, but no court has been convened to investigate them.

Dr Khatami was asked: Now that you do not have a good relationship with the Shiraz Religious Magistrate, to what authority do you defer on questions of religious law?

He answered: We act upon the religious and theological judgements of Ayatollah Seyyed Abdolkasem Dasgheyl, Imam Jom'eh of Shiraz, and/or we cooperate with Mr Mir Chaffari of the Revolutionary Court.

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CSO: 4906

GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER BIG TRANSPORT COMPANIES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 80 p 13

[Text] The assets of eight big transport companies with four thousand trucks have been taken over by the government. The debt of these eight companies to banks and the Ministry of Commerce was around 11 billion 280 million rials. Some of these companies had borrowed 2600 times the amount of their own assets.

In announcing this news today, Mehdi Aminzadeh, of the Board of Directors of the Department for Expanding Commercial Services, said: There were about eight transport companies in Iran consolidated under the name of one parent company called "Baranbar", with assets of 100 million rials. The subsidiaries of this company were: Gostareh-e Khidmat-e Bazargani, controller of 40 percent of the stock, Hamlonagi, and Sarbanha, Iran Tanker, the Tehran-Khorramshahr express of Iran, Iran Air'at, Transcontinental, the Hamlonagi-e Pars Container Company, and Iran-Europe Carrier, which held the remainder of the stock.

Aminzadeh said: In 1352 [21 Mar 73-20 Mar 74] and 1353 [21 Mar 74-20 Mar 75] due to increased oil production and a flood of imports, the despised Pahlavi regime was faced with a shortage of transport facilities. Consequently it called upon its supporters, loaned them money from the treasury, and established these companies. He added: These eight companies have about four thousand trucks, two thousand of which are roadworthy. These eight companies were indebted to government banks and the Ministry of Commerce by about 11 billion 280 million rials, and some of them, such as the Tehran-Khorramshahr express, had borrowed 2600 times the value of their own assets. Aminzadeh said: Calculating these amounts, every truck should be worth 2 million rials, but now these trucks are not worth half that amount. Aminzadeh then undertook to explain this company, saying: After the revolution the Sarbanha Company, which was related to Qasem-e Sarbanha, took over the directorship of the foundation and some other shareholders. This company, with its initial capital of 30 million rials, owed around 700 million rials to the Ministry of Commerce and 2.6 billion rials to the banks.

The Iran Tanker Company, which was also related to the Sarbanha family, with its initial capital of 139 million rials was in debt about 100 million rials to the banks. The Hamlonagi-e Bozorg-e Iran Company was related to the Sudavar family, which now has government managers, and with assets equal to 500 million

rials it owed about one billion six million rials to the government. Iran Bor'at, which was related to the Azarmina Va Geraei family, now has a government board of directors. This company, with assets of 20 million rials, had borrowed one billion 757 million rials from the government. Fere Container, which was related to the Fanning family, is now in the administrative hands of the warher's council. This company, with assets of 10 million rials, owed the government 1.4 billion rials. Transcontinental, which was related to the Mohammadian family, with assets of 300 million rials, only owed 1.2 billion rials to the Ministry of Commerce. This company is now under the supervision of government directors.

The Khorramshahr Express, which was affiliated with Mr. Asari, with one million rials starting capital, had borrowed 120 million rials from the bank and the Ministry of Commerce. Finally, Iran Europe Carrier, which was affiliated with Kazemi, with 200 million rials assets, only owed 900 million rials to the Ministry of Commerce.

On the other hand, according to a note of confirmation, the directors of these companies will be from the Ministry of Commerce, but their employees will not be government employees and they will not be subject to government regulation. Aminzadeh said: Five companies, Iran Bor'at, Fere Container, Sathandis, Iran Tanker, and the Tehran-Khorramshahr Express will be supervised by the Department for Expanding Commercial Services. Two companies, Hamlenanji-e Anzarg-e Iran and Transcontinental will come under the mantle of the Grain Administration, and the last company has also been placed under the control of the Wheat and Sugar Administration.

Aminzadeh said: At a meeting attended by Mr. Razi-Sade, President of the Republic, it was arranged that unemployed drivers would be referred to the transport companies to return to work after filling out questionnaire.

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CSO: 4906

MINISTER OUTLINES FUTURE OF NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Aug 80 p 9

Article: "Minister of Industries and Mines: Nationalized Industries Will Not Be Returned to Their Previous Owners"

Text None of the major industries which have been nationalized will be returned to their previous owners. And the Ministry of Industries and Mines will use all in its power to carry out those regulations which have been passed. These statements were made by Ahmadzadeh, the minister of Industries and Mines, in a press conference at which the vice ministers were also present.

Concerning industrial production levels of the past year, the minister of Industries and Mines said: After the revolution, both accurate and inaccurate figures were given to the people in a haphazard manner. But today, we have at our disposal relatively accurate figures for the year 1979-80 (1358) which contrast with those of '77-'78 and '78-'79 (1356 and '57). Of course, these figures only include the major production areas and show that our industrial production in '79-'80 (1358) has in certain instances been less and in certain instances more than in '77-'78 (1356).

The figures show that in the areas in which we have been more dependent on raw and semi-finished materials, production has decreased.

Ahmadzadeh added: In any case, we can claim that we have been successful in '79-'80 and in spite of all the difficulties, production has been good. We hope to have increased production of high quality in '80-'81 (1359).

He added: At the end of last year, 70 percent of the investment in industries came from the government.

He added: Last year, we had many disagreements with the owners of nationalized industries, who tried to prove in various ways that the government is unable to manage the nationalized industries. But I declare before all that these individuals should not think that they will be successful. The Ministry of Industries and Mines will use all in its power to enforce the law and will not allow those industries which have financially fed upon this ministry during the past year, the ministry having assumed their management, to be returned to their previous owners.

Concerning workers' councils of the production units, the Minister of Industries and Mines said: We have often used the members of Islamic councils of the factories as members of the board of directors of the factories. For example, there are members of Islamic councils on the board of directors of 80 percent of the textile units. In the food industry, this figure is about 50 percent. But the reason for the closing of the nationwide Union of Islamic Revolutionary Councils is as follows: This Union contained individuals from leftist groups who actively disrupted production within the industrial units of the Organization of Expansion and Renovation of Iranian Industries. At the same time, in accordance with the law, the formation of Islamic councils in large industrial units must take place only with the approval of the government.

In conclusion, Ahmadsadeh added: After the revolution, 95 percent of the production units were closed. We began almost from zero and now, after one year, the situation is almost reversed; that is, at the present time, 95 percent of the production units are operating. Of the 400 production units under the supervision of the Ministry of Industries and Mines, there is disruption in fewer than 5 percent of the units. The others are working well. At present, Iran National puts 250 automobiles on the market daily and it has enough raw materials to last six months.

In this meeting, Dr. Sadr, the executive vice chairman of the Organization of Expansion and the Organization of National Industries, also spoke about the reasons for dissolving the factory councils. In Tabriz, councils within the nationwide Union of Islamic Revolutionary Councils were dissolved by Ayatollah Musavi. Later, a number of workers came to us and requested the dissolution of the aforementioned union. He also said: Islamic councils approved by the Islamic govern-

ment are also approved of by the Organization of Expansion and Renovation of Industries.

He added: Investment in the Organization of Expansion and Renovation of Iranian Industries is all governmental and belongs to the people. What we want is to establish law and order in the workplace, because last year disorder caused a deficit of 2 billion rials.

In the continuation of this press conference, Engineer Baberi, the industrial vice minister of Industries and Mines, said concerning the nationalized industries: After the nationalization of industries, about 1,000 directors were selected by the Ministry of Industries and Mines. This may be the largest number appointed. The selected directors were first faced with actual problems such as strikes, disruptions, counter-revolutionaries, etc. Basically, dependent capitalism tried to prove that the government is not able to manage the nationalized industries.

In this meeting, Engineer Mohammad 'Ali Zaker, the secretary of the Organization for the Coordination of the Development and Independence of Iranian Industries, explained the goals of this organization. He said: The Organization began operation with insignificant means from last June-July (Tir). First, it took steps to organize an exhibition of spare parts imported from abroad. The goal of this exhibition was to have Iranian craftsmen make these parts. But there were several major problems including the fact that most of those who were able to make the parts did not have the necessary means. And another problem was that the cost was high, several times the price of foreign-made parts. In addition, lack of cooperation on the part of factories with craftsmen caused problems.

He added: We have divided industries into 18 guild councils. The primary duty of these councils is to help establish an industrial information bank.

Following this session, Engineer Rahju, vice minister of mines of the Ministry of Industries and Mines, spoke about the excavation of mines: Different organizations will participate in the excavation of mines and we are trying to centralize all excavation activities in one place, in an independent organization called "The Unit for the Exploration of Mines."

He added: Following the ratification of the Constitution, we drew up the Law of Mines in consultation with various spiritual leaders including Mr Golzadeh-Qhafuri and we sent it to the Revolutionary Council. In accordance with this law,

Since the mines belong to the people, no excavation permit will be issued to individuals. However, exploration will remain open to the private sector. That is, the private sector will be contracted to do excavation for the government.

At the end of the meeting, Engineer Hejazi, vice minister for finance and administration of the Ministry of Industries and Mines, said: The Ministry's personnel has been reduced by 25 percent and from an organizational perspective, it has decreased by 50 percent (as published).

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CBO: 4906

HALF OF FOREIGN TRADE NATIONALIZED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Aug 80 p 12

[Article: "Minister of Commerce Announces at a Press Conference: Fifty Percent of Foreign Commerce Has Been Nationalized"]

[Text] At a press conference the Minister of Commerce discussed issues in the areas of foreign trade, centers of production and distribution of goods, setting up an institute for commercial studies, helping the private sector, price control, and the employment of specialists.

This conference, held in the offices of the Ministry of Commerce, was attended by the managing directors of the three centers, Production and Distribution, Metals, Paper and Wood, and Textiles and Fibres. Reza Sadr, Minister of Commerce, began by talking about foreign trade: At the end of Ordibehesht [mid April] we were able to secure the Revolutionary Council's approval of Article 44 of the Constitution, which divides the economic system of the Islamic Republic of Iran into government, cooperative, and private sectors with a systematic and eminently sound plan. He added: After the text of the law nationalizing foreign trade is written and approved by the Council of Ministers at the end of Tir [mid June], no one will be able to import iron directly. As of now around 50 percent of foreign commerce has been nationalized, of which around 30 percent of the country's imports will be secured by three centers. Twenty percent of that is related to the Center of Metals, and the other 10 percent will be handled by the centers of paper, wood, textiles, and fibre importing. Taking another group of imports into consideration, such as wheat, rice, meat, sugar cubes, sugar, and vegetable oil, which have been handled by the government up until now, this makes more than 50 percent.

Reza Sadr said: Another foundation has been set up for commercial studies which has prepared itself to gather statistics.

We know that we have been getting the worst of it in trade until now, for we have paid high prices for goods because we have not had good information in the international market. Since our trade has been traditional in nature, our information has been very slight. He said: We hope to make progress in our commercial and industrial sectors in order to be able to reduce prices and inflation.

Then Shoja'eldin Fathi, an assistant in the Ministry of Commerce, talked about changes in the country's economic situation: It is our intention, by not continuing in a state of dependence, to turn our talents to production within the country. Therefore, the first effect of nationalization is to return production to within the country. If not, we will not achieve self sufficiency through talk and discussion. Therefore, the choice of methods should be such that people will move in the direction of production. Therefore, this profiteering must be stopped.

In conclusion, he called for communications to study and analyze the effects of nationalization in order for it to be clear whether in the long run nationalization of foreign trade would lead to self sufficiency or not.

Raza Badr added: After commerce was nationalized and more than 80 percent of industry was nationalized, a law was approved by the Revolutionary Council which appointed 22 members of the 45-person Executive Committee of the Chamber of Commerce from the Ministries of Commerce, Industries, and Mines, two people from the mines sector, 10 people from the industries sector, and 10 people from commerce. Of this number, six members of this same chamber and these same centers will be chosen, and also 23 other people will be chosen from the private sector for the purpose of helping the growth of foreign trade.

He said: I hope, with the awareness that we will give the people, and with attention to article 44, the upholders of which law will be in the Chamber of Commerce, and with attention to people in charge, God willing we will succeed in implementing this article according to the wishes of its affirmers in the Assembly of Experts and the nation.

Mohammad Suri, an assistant in the Ministry of Commerce, said concerning the establishment of a trade center: We have decided to convert the 32 story building called the Mepehr Building, formerly belonging to Hashbar Yazdani, to a trade center, in order to centralize all centers in that place. In this way we will transform our business from a bazaar of little shops and offices to a presentable condition that is competitive with the large countries of the world. In this end, we are asking the owner of this building, meaning the Export Bank, to complete it and turn over all the necessary facilities and international business information to the government.

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CSO: 4906

MINISTRY OF LABOR SETS 44-HOUR WORK WEEK

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Aug 80 p 1

[Text] Tehran--Working hours for all government employees as well as workers in the private sector has been fixed at 44 hours per week, it was announced by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Reza Nematzadeh yesterday.

Nematzadeh speaking to the Pars News Agency said that the law will be strictly enforced as from August 23, 1980.

Under laws operating earlier working hours for executives and officials was only 33 hours per week and since the beginning of the revolution there was no consistency in the number of working hours, as a result of the lengthy periods for which offices and commercial houses came to be voluntarily closed in support of revolutionary calls.

Later, with industrial closures, worker and manager disputes, calls for pay rises and other attendant disruptions of work no regular working hours could be properly determined.

It was suggested, said the labor minister, that working hours for the lower rings in the work force should be reduced to bring it in line with working hours to those in the official and executive grades. But this has been rejected, he said, as the revolutionary tasks ahead deem more working hours necessary rather than fewer hours before.

Since early in 1980 there have been attempts at every level to have industries back on their feet and normalizing of work in all government departments, so the longer working hours were a matter of the highest priority now, the labor minister said.

Asked if it was fair that working hours for officials and executives should be equalized in view of the heavy work capacities that those in this category were called upon to bear, Nematzadeh disagreed saying that labor laws throughout the world did not discriminate this way. Besides, he said, it was anticipated that most government departments would be

faced with a problem of overstaffing shortly. He added that this was because there were plans mooted for streamlining work in all these departments.

The solution, he said, would be to divert as many officials as possible into the provinces and rural sectors. This is in keeping with government's policies of decentralization of society stressing development in the provinces and rural sectors.

CBO: 4920

IRAN

RAILROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Aug 80 p 3

[Article: "By the General Director of Railroads: The Program for the Expansion, Replacement, and Repair of Railways Announced"]

[Text] Seyyed Mohammad 'Alizadeh, director general of Iranian government railroads, related the present situation of the railroads and their problems in a press conference.

Before the interview, the problems of the railroads were pointed out with slides and explanations. It was explained that within only the last week, seven bombs were discovered and neutralized in the Iranian railroads. There are also many telephone calls which threaten to stop the trains. In this connection, a number of people have been arrested and handed over to the proper authorities.

Then, Engineer Alizadeh, concerning the general policies of the railroads after the revolution, said:

We began basic repairs of the railroads four months ago; however, the budget for railroads in '80-'81 [159] is insufficient. Had we had the funds, we would have been able to employ 100,000 people.

For instance, between Tehran and Garmsar there has been no reconstruction. Along this route, which is 114 km, so far only 100 km of railroad has been replaced.

The Revolutionary Council has put 600 million rials at our disposal in connection with the budget shortage, the plan for self-sufficiency, and rapid action plans.

He also added: About one-half million tons of rails designated for the stretch between the ports of Eman Khomeyni and Ma'shur (formerly Mahshahr), which is about 2,800 km, have been abandoned. These rails were purchased four to seven years ago and have been left out in the rain.

Concerning the engine power of the trains, Allizadeh said:

Presently, we have 414 diesels, one-fourth of which are used for freight and passengers. The rest, because of the lack of spare parts, labor problems, salary shortages, etc., are inoperational.

At the present time, we have 48,000 employees of the railroads who do not hold high school diplomas or are illiterate, with the exception of 4-5,000. They are, in fact, among the most disadvantaged employees of the railroads.

The reason is that the railroad was the only institution which was not in the service of the tyrannical power. Of course, it transported military personnel, but on the whole, it has been an institution used for transporting freight and passengers. The situation is presently the same. The exploitive policies of governments which controlled locomotives and rails were to profit from keeping the railroad system a consuming institution. They did not worry about making the railroads self-sufficient; they only thought of trying to sell as much as possible.

For example, when they brought us turbotrains, they did so only for their profit of \$800 million.

The director general of railroads then added:

On the whole, the present situation of the railroads from the standpoint of passengers, roads, spare parts, etc. can be divided into three segments. The technical segment includes the situation with the rails, engine power, and employees and related problems. As far as the situation with the rails is concerned, there are 4,600 km of main lines and 200 km of secondary lines. These lines have not had essential, basic repairs since they were built by the British, French, and Russians.

All the lines need to be replaced, and most disasters are caused for this reason.

The ballast and ties have been damaged by snow, flood, and rain and grass has grown between the ties.

He added that although we have had 2-2 1/2 times fewer engines in operation than in previous years, this year more freight has been transported than before.

The director general of the Iranian government railroads also said: The people should realize themselves that they should travel less in order to cut back on railroad usage.

Concerning spare parts and necessary equipment, he said that the United States is not providing us with this equipment but intends to sell it to us through third parties at twice or three times the actual price. We, of course, will not accept this. In any case, the rebuilding of the lines will take 7-8 years.

He added: The safety factor of our railroads is very low and the possibility of train derailments does exist. The reason is that for many years attention has not been paid to them. Only in the last 6 or 7 months has there been any movement concerning the railroads. We need 18 million rials per km to rebuild the lines. Next year, we will rebuild between 500 and 700 km of railroad. In the north and in the south together, 1500 km of railroad needs to be rebuilt.

Concerning the making of parts, locomotive equipment, and rails in Iran, he said: About 18 or 19 years ago, a locomotive was built in Iran, all of whose parts we could build ourselves. After the coup d'état of 1953 [28 Mordad], 254 Santa Fe steam engines were put into service between 1953 and 1955 [1332-1334], which were supposed to last for 40 years. After the coup d'état, the changing of railroad directors, and the signing of contracts with the United States, the steam engines were taken out of operation and buried, even those which had no mileage on them. But at the present time, our job is to replace parts. For instance, last year we replaced 1400 cylinder heads which were corroded.

Because 5 months ago supplies had reached zero, we repaired and used the old train parts which had formerly been disposed of. For comparison, last year in Pakistan, only one cylinder head was replaced while at the same time in Iran 1400 cylinder heads were replaced. Between 2 1/2 and 6 months ago, that is, until early June [mid Khordad], we had only 78 heavy diesel

engines left out of 122. That is, every week, one engine went out of order. Since 2 1/2 months ago, through the efforts and attention of employees, the number has become fixed. We have succeeded in keeping the figure at about 62 diesel engines.

Of course, recently because of the increased number of passengers, we have added seven or eight engines.

He added: By using old parts, we have been able to make repairs in 70 cases, of which only 2 have gone out of order.

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CSO: 4906

PARTY ORGAN HAILS TIES WITH INDIA

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Aug 80 p 1

[Text] The morning daily Jomhuri-e Eslami in a front page article yesterday commented on the relations between Iran and India and said that the Islamic Revolution of Iran has created joy among the Moslems of India. Realistically, the Iranian Revolution could further strengthen the friendship between the two countries for it has dealt the severest blow ever to United States imperialism and British colonialism in the region. There is need to say that the nation of India too has suffered from British and American colonialism and the U.S. through its plots has created schism among Hindu and Moslem population of India with the objective of preventing them from fighting against the dominant world blasphemy.

At present these populations are suffering from these plots and therefore they should all become aware of these instigations and put an end to them.

The fact is that the Hindus and Moslems could live together in peace and unitedly fight against imperialism and in this connection the Islamic Revolution of Iran could assist them and could take steps to strengthen friendly relations between these populations. Besides, Iran and India could expand their relations in the sphere of industry and economics. Such cooperation which would not appease the enemies of the two countries could be beneficial for both of them. Iran could meet part of the economic demands of India and India in return, could through its cooperation with Iran open a strong economic front against imperialism, added the newspaper.

In the opinion of Jomhuri-e Eslami so far the efforts made to create peaceful coexistence between Hindus and Moslems have not been sufficient enough, for both population to be able to develop their culture in a free atmosphere. To this end holding Islamic seminars and conferences would prove to be useful, stressed the article.

The article concluded by saying that if the statesmen of the two countries realize the importance of expansion of the relations between Iran and India there would be a promising future for both nations culturally, economically and politically.

This is because stability and peace in the Indian Sub-Continent is a vital importance for the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the Iranian Revolution could not remain indifferent towards the foolish plots of U.S. imperialism.

COUNTRY SEEN READY FOR PRESUMPTIVE WAR

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 27 Jun 80 pp 24-25

[Article by Nash'at al-Taghlubi: "Israel Plans for Presumptive War if Palestinians Go on With Escalation of Their Operations; European Initiative Does not Support Anybody Against Anybody; Zionist Call for 'Unity of World Jewry and Israel'; Return to Zero Point in Egyptian-Israeli Negotiations"]

[Text] Before King Husayn's visit to Washington, Jordan was the focus of attention. After the conclusion of the king's talks with U.S. President Carter, Jordan has continued to be the focus of attention. However, the following questions are raised: What comes after President Carter's determination to carry on with the two Camp David accords to the end and after the Jordanian monarch's refusal to join these two accords which, according to the monarch, have not made a single step forward on the path of solving the Palestinian problem? What does Jordan intend to do now regarding the Palestinian resolution to escalate the military operations in the occupied territories and the subsequent use of the Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese territories and Israeli reactions to such escalation?

Before King Husayn's trip to Washington, it was noticed that Yasir 'Arafat visited Jordan and held a long meeting with the king. After 'Arafat, the Jordanian capital was visited by a Palestinian delegation headed by Abu Jihad, the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee then met and a delegation representing the Palestinian National Council followed.

It is true that these movements were for the purpose of getting reassured about the health of Bassam al-Shak'ah, the mayor of Nabulus whose leg had been amputated. But what is also true is that Israel has not been unaware of what is happening on the Palestinian-Jordanian arena. Israel has wasted no time and has resorted immediately to talking about "a Palestinian base being set up in the Jordanian territories to escalate the military operations in the West Bank," warning the neighboring Arab countries of "the consequences of any attacks constituting a threat to Israel's security."

At the same time, the Israeli papers have devoted extensive space to attacking the resolution issued by Fatah, the Palestine Liberation Movement, calling for

"the full liberation of Palestine and the economic, political, military, cultural and intellectual liquidation of the Zionist entity." It has been noticed that the papers have seized upon this paragraph and have disregarded the second paragraph of the resolution calling for "the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state on the entire Palestinian soil," i.e. a common state in which the Arabs and the Jews coexist. These papers have intentionally stressed that the Palestinians cannot carry out the operations to which they have referred unless the neighboring Arab countries (Jordan, Syria and Lebanon) agree to let the Palestinians launch their operations from their territories and unless the other Arab countries supply them with the money necessary for the "war escalation." This is why the Israelis have made their threats against several Arab countries, considering the contacts that have taken place in Jordan on the one hand and the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Iraq on the other hand, as well as the Jordanian, Saudi and Iraqi armament, and even the Egyptian armament, a direct threat to Israel's security. This is also why the Israelis have said that "the Arab countries must shoulder their responsibilities for whatever may result from this."

Under Israeli pressure, the United States has been compelled to dip its bucket in the issue and Muskie, the U.S. Secretary of State, has addressed a direct warning to the Egyptians, Israelis and Palestinians and an indirect warning to all the Arabs against "obstructing the negotiations over the two Camp David accords." Muskie has further warned of a "whirlwind of destruction that will cover the Near East area" and will threaten "to extend to the other parts of the world" if the two accords do not reach their goal.

The U.S. Department of State has also considered the resolution of "Fatah, the party with influence in the PLO," to escalate the military action against Israel at the expense of the diplomatic efforts a very serious matter by virtue of the fact that "it doesn't offer any help to the peace efforts."

As for the U.S. press, it has attributed to the U.S. officials the reports that they expect numerous explosions in a vast area extending from the Near East to southwest Asia. This press has said that "the PLO is awaiting the outcome of the two meetings of the European countries in Venice to determine in the light of their outcome implementation of the program of scheduled operations." This press has also said that "Israel is getting ready and is blaming all the Arab countries, especially the neighboring Arab countries."

Meanwhile, Washington has been exerting big efforts for resumption of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. This effort has been proceeding in two parallel lines: First, obstruct a European initiative conflicting with the two Camp David accords. Second, compel the Arab countries, especially Jordan, "not to facilitate the Palestinian task of escalating the operations in the occupied territories."

Egypt and Israel have agreed to direct preparatory contacts in Washington to know "the nature of the grounds on which the negotiations can be resumed."

But neither Cairo nor Tel Aviv are convinced of the possibility of realizing any success in this regard. The Begin government has considered the U.S. invitation "a temporary superficial success" for Carter, enabling him to keep the crisis at a distance for some time and to devote his efforts to his election campaign. The Cairo government finds nothing from Israel to encourage resumption of the negotiations, especially since Begin—who has repeatedly stressed his refusal of any "conditional" negotiations—has been the first to hasten to set "prior conditions" when he declared that Israel alone decides the necessities of its security in the occupied territories and that the government cannot ask the Knesset (the Israeli parliament) to withdraw the bill for establishing the city of Jerusalem as the finally united capital of Israel. Cairo has said that this declaration is a direct reference to the two points that had led to suspending the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations last month. Cairo has added that the statement in which Begin has stressed his determination to build 10 more settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is enough to blow up everything because it means a return to the Zero point.

As for the European initiative, the U.S. movement to contain this initiative has been described as "consisting of a series of warnings." President Carter has warned his European allies, stressing that he is "firmly and strongly in control of the delicate matters, despite his preoccupation with the elections!" Carter's secretary of state has also declared frankly that the United States will not allow its control of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations to be lost and that it will not allow any measure at present leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This U.S. position has, naturally, influenced the resolutions of the EEC countries participating in the Venice meeting. These resolutions have had the quality of a "political declaration" rather than the quality of "positive action," even though some Palestinian circles have considered the resolutions a step forward. Though the European capitals have implied that their initiative will assume bigger dimensions later on, the European political observers do not find it likely that any significant development will occur, first, because Washington wants nothing to annoy it from now till the end of the presidential elections and, second, because the European countries are eager to avoid a confrontation with the United States at present, as evident in the statement made by Jean Francois-Poncet, the French minister of foreign affairs, to the U.S. *NEWSWEEK*. Perhaps this statement explains to a large degree the nature of the Elysee Palace (the French presidency) thinking under the present circumstances. Despite the enthusiasm of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing for a European initiative leading to the recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and to recognition of the Palestine people's right to self-determination and to the establishment of their state, he has been initially persuaded that the European initiative must pass through phases: The first is the phase of "filling the vacuum during the period in which the U.S. administration is paralyzed because of the elections." The second is the phase of deciding on positive action through amendment of Security Council resolution 242 or through any other formula agreed upon, such as the formula proposed by U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim calling for the holding of an international conference

to deal with the Palestinian issue and to decide on the solution it requires in freedom from the Geneva conference formula whereby the conference was chaired alternately by the United States and the Soviet Union.

On the basis of this reality, the French press has described the European initiative as being "in support of nobody and against nobody."

The question raised now is: Will Fatah, and consequently the PLO, carry out the threat to escalate the military operations in the occupied territories? Will the Arab countries help them to do so? What will the position of Israel, and also that of the United States, be in such a case?

Those who observe the course of developments in the Middle East area sum up the features of these developments as follows:

First, the recent developments, both at the international diplomatic level and in the occupied territories, confirm that the position of the Palestinians, and of Yasser 'Arafat in particular, has improved and strengthened. It is indubitable that Israel has become isolated internationally and that it can find no supporter other than the United States. On the other hand, despite all the Israeli pressures, the Palestinians in the occupied homeland continue to acknowledge no party other than the PLO as their representative.

Second, while the regime in Israel suffers from internal degeneration and faces the danger of escalated violence, it is noticed that all the Arab countries, especially the Gulf countries, will find themselves compelled to go to the most radical extremes if the efforts exerted at present fail to reach a comprehensive settlement for the Palestinian issue.

Third, the United States, despite its shaky international reputation as the result of its inability to persuade Israel to abide by the provisions of the Camp David accords, still insists on monopolizing the diplomatic action in the Middle East without displaying any readiness for any alternative to these two accords, keeping in mind that the United States knows that there has to be advance preparation for any conference held to solve any problem, meaning that there has to be preparatory negotiations that lay down the fundamental lines which guarantee the success of such a conference.

Fourth, President al-Sadat has not at all changed his opinion that the solution to the Palestinian problem and peace in the Middle East pass through neither Moscow, Paris or any other capital but through Washington alone. The reason for his insistence on his opinion is that he is wagering on the fall of Begin's government and the coming of another more moderate government!

Fifth, continuation of the present situation in the area encourages the inclination toward violence. When violence and counter-violence begin, the vicious circle starts and nobody knows when or where this circle will end.

Sixth, as a result of the internal U.S. conditions, Menachem Begin has become more inflexible and no longer agrees to anything conflicting with the rejected conditions which he has laid down as a basis for the Israeli solution to the self-rule issue. Begin has even denounced the U.S. abstention from voting on the resolution issued by the Security Council denouncing the attacks on the mayors of Nabulus and Ramallah. Because of this abstention, Begin has criticized the Washington administration sharply, as if he wants it to support the terror perpetrated by radical Israeli organizations--and all signs indicate that these organizations receive support from Begin's government itself.

But why has the U.S. secretary of state voiced his warning in which he expects "a destructive whirlwind extending from the Middle East to the other parts of the world" at a time when the U.S. officials whisper that "the Arab countries will not dare to open their borders to the PLO" and when they cite as an example the statement made by 'Abd-al-Hamid Sharaf, the Jordanian prime minister, in which he has talked of "supporting our brothers in the occupied territories" without making any reference to supporting the Palestinian action outside the occupied territories, being content with calling on the Arab countries to engage in serious action to confront the Israeli occupation and asserting that "Jordan will be in the vanguard of the deep Arab confrontation?"

The Americans answer that the international equation has compelled them to make radical statements.

On this particular point, the U.S. press and the European press are in agreement that the PLO is capable of moving despite the reservations of some Arab countries on this movement and that the Soviet Union is now interested in pushing the Middle East conditions toward further tension.

As for Begin's government which has been spreading threats that "it will not soften by one iota insofar as its security is concerned," it is no less worried than Washington itself. Its concern emanates primarily from the tension which has not been confined to the occupied territories alone but which has spread among Palestinians carrying Israeli identity cards (Israeli Palestinians) in the other areas. Begin has found himself compelled to warn these Palestinians against their solidarity with the West Bank Palestinians and the Israeli opposition has also found itself compelled to support Begin on this issue in the wake of the (press) conference held by Tawfiq Ziyad, the Knesset member and representative of the communist party (Rakah) in the Knesset, who criticized the Israeli government's position vis-a-vis the attack on the mayors of Nabulus and Ramallah and vis-a-vis the attack on Hebron.

On the other hand, the French LE FIGARO has published a statement by Shimon Peres, the opposition (Labor Party) leader, expressing tacit support for the position of Begin's government. Peres has expressed the belief that Israel is smaller than to have an agricultural society and an industrial society and has said that the Israeli Palestinians must contribute to industrializing the country as they contributed in the past to developing agriculture and "they benefited a lot from this." Even though Peres considers the settlements

built by his government a "de facto" that allows their legitimacy" whereas the present government "is building settlements outside the framework of any legitimacy," he has urged Europe not to "obstruct the course of the peace in which it had not participated before and not to make Arab oil the sole expression of its foreign policy and of a society that has not yet succeeded in establishing the political Europe!" Peres has also said: "For the Camp David accords to overcome their present crisis, the government must change its policy on settlement in the occupied territories, the self-rule must be first applied in Gaza which will become the 'Hong Kong' of the Mediterranean and elections must be held in Judea and Samaria in coordination with Jordan because the Judea and Samaria--West Bank--Palestinians have not given up their Jordanian passports. Their choice will not be between us and Jordan but between Jordan and the PLO. This is more an issue of interest than one of conviction."

This statement has assured the French press of the presence of a common denominator between Begin's government and any other government that will replace it insofar as the Palestinian issue is concerned. The statement has also asserted that if Begin tries to explode the situation, even if he does so according to the saying "upon my head and the head of my enemies," the explosion will guarantee him a better position, regardless of the circumstances and the results, because the explosion will guarantee, first, the containment of the "hesitant" European initiative and, second, embarking on the negotiations from an angle different from the angle on which Egypt still insists. What Begin fears worst at present is what has been said by some Labor Party leaders about the presence of the danger of the eruption of a civil war in Israel if it is decided to evacuate the settlements. This is why he has encouraged the terrorist operations aimed at devolving the West Bank of the main Palestinian leaderships and even of the population, if necessary, "because of the difficulty of controlling more than one million Palestinians in the occupied territories. He has even included in his calculations the possibility of launching a preemptive war if Jordan weakens and permits the PLO to act from its territories."

This possibility has appeared in the appeal addressed by (Leon Dolzen), the chairman of the International Zionist Organization and of the Jewish Agency, to the Israelis to stop their internal quarrels and to exercise self-restraint and full solidarity. Dolzen has said: The internal quarrels cast shadows on the national cohesion over which the government and the opposition do not disagree. The most important foundations of this cohesion are opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state, opposition to negotiations with the PLO and opposition to the partition of Jerusalem and a return to the 1967 borders. Dolzen has also stressed the importance of Jewish unity between Israel and the world Jewry to confront whatever threatens the Israeli entity.

Thus, Israel has not been making offhanded threats against the Arab countries and has not adopted its inflexible positions out of the desire to foil the Camp David accord concerning the Palestinian self-rule. Israel has done this, in the view of the Israeli observers themselves, in an attempt to create a

new reality which it doesn't want changed if President Carter is re-elected and finds himself free of the Zionist votes, considering that his new term will be the last term permitted by the constitution.

Those who believe in this view add that what encourages Israel most to carry out this plan is its feeling that it is capable of launching a preemptive war against one or two Arab countries without facing reactions from the other Arab countries as a result of the conflicts still present among these countries. Even if there are reactions, they will come late.

On the basis of this situation, successive Israeli statements containing indirect threats against the Arabs have been made. However, these statements constitute, in the opinion of the observers, indicators that must not be disregarded or neglected. General Etan, the Israeli chief of staff, has pointed out in a statement to YEDI'OT AHARONOT that the eastern front (the front with Jordan and Syria) is being bolstered "in an unimaginable way." Etan has also said: An enormous military base is also being built in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia. This Saudi base is adjacent to the Port of Eilat on the Gulf of 'Aqaba. As for Jordan, it possesses Chieftain tanks which are the best kind of tanks. Jordan will also receive weapons from the Soviet Union and the Jordanian army is developing rapidly and now owns antiaircraft batteries. As for Syria, it has replaced its old tanks with Soviet T-62 and T-72 tanks and has acquired Mig-23 and Mig-25 aircraft. As for Iraq, it has doubled its army in the past 4 years. General Etan has added: All this means that what is happening on the eastern front is very serious. Therefore, there is no place at present for economizing in the Ministry of Defense budget. Israel has the ability to confront this front if Israel's army remains the stronger and the better.

On the other hand, General (Sagi), the chief of the Israeli intelligence, has said in another statement: Israel does not expect a war because instability in the Arab area generally spares it such a war. However, it must be said that "any change or any revolution that may occur in the area will act as two factors leading to war."

Naturally, Sagi has not defined the form of the change or of the revolution which, or one of which, Israel can use a pretext for war. Israel considers the evaluation of such a matter a private concern and an internal affair! This exactly is what calls for extreme caution because the experiences through which the Arab countries, especially the frontline states, have gone from 1949 until the present confirm that the issue of "security" is to the Israelis, with their various governments, the clothes hanger on which they hang the justifications for all their wars, which they call preemptive wars!

8494

CSO: 4802

LIKUD, ALIGNMENT CLASH IN HISTADRUT

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jul 80 p 3

[Article by Yehudit Winkler: "Struggle Between the Likud and the Alignment in the Packaging of Ideology"]

[Text] The tension which marked the preparations for the opening of the second session of the Histadrut convention dissipated yesterday, just before the beginning of the deliberations. It became evident that the Likud does not intend at this stage to carry out the threat to turn to the courts, in order to protect its status in the Histadrut institutions. "We are too late," explained MK Me'ir Cohan, one of the heads of the Likud in the Histadrut Council, the appeal to the courts will indeed take place.

The morning session of the Histadrut convention in the Hall of Culture in Tel Aviv was more than a little reminiscent of the meetings of the central committee of the Labor Party. In the first rows of the center of the hall stood the hierarchy of the Alignment; Shimon Peres, Chaim Bar-Lev, Yitzhak Rabin, Secretary of the MA'AN Victor Shem-Tov, Gad Ya'aqovi, Yosef Takoa, and the former secretaries-general of the Histadrut Yitzhak Ben-Aharon and Aharon Baqar. Missing from the ranks of the Likud were the members of the Knesset, including those who spent the first part of their political careers in the Histadrut, and others who sought to convince the public before the entrance of the Likud into the Histadrut that they were members of the Histadrut-- that their right to vote and to be elected is anchored in this membership.

Next Year's Elections

The second session of the Histadrut convention was convened, first and foremost, for the purpose of paving the way for the holding of the elections to the Histadrut next year, and not in 1982 as the Histadrut Council had decided in the past. The change of the decision requires the approval of the convention.

Attached to this formal decision (taken during the initial stages of clarification in the hierarchy of the Alignment in the Histadrut) was

another decision which authorizes the Histadrut Council to hold discussions--in order to define and to specify the rights and obligations of the factions in the Histadrut. Anyone familiar with what is happening in the Histadrut calls this decision another attempt of the Alignment to cope with the repeated efforts of the Likud in the Histadrut institutions to move the struggle outside of its confines in the courts and in the Knesset--where it is a respectable minority, albeit a minority nonetheless--to the executive committee of the Histadrut, where the Alignment enjoys a substantial majority which enables it to conduct the routine activities in the Histadrut in accordance with its viewpoint and policy.

Ideological Packaging

These practical aspects were enclosed yesterday at the convention in ideological packaging--the head of the Alignment referred to the convention as an "ideological convention" even though throughout yesterday there were only a few ideological comments. The dispute between the Alignment and the Likud has been conducted along the policy line of the present government and the policy of the former Alignment governments. The controversy which continued throughout the day was far from being one involving thinkers who represented opposing political and economic world outlooks.

The secretary general of the Histadrut MK Yeruham Meshel stated in his opening address: "It is necessary to appeal to the government, and in my opinion, the government itself should have had the sense to put its political, economic, and social policy to the public test."

Before this, Meshel greeted the Chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shimon Peres, who was present in the hall, however, he ignored the presence of MK Yitzhaq Rabin. The Likud representative Ya'akov Shamir "stole the show" when he reminded everyone that former prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin was present in the hall. His words were greeted with the thunderous applause of those in the hall, virtually without party distinction.

MK Meshel reiterated the necessity to hold elections as soon as possible, and subsequently stated that the Histadrut must also hold a social ideological discussion and sharpen the debate, in order to accelerate the process of meeting with the public. This will enable the latter to judge the path it will choose for the conduct of the affairs of state. "The crisis is not only conjectural, it has become structural" were the words of the Histadrut secretary general. Meshel repeated the opposition of the Alignment to the compulsory arbitration law, demanded the imposition of a tax on capital gains, and for an entire hour repeated his often-expressed criticism of the economic and social policy of the present government.

Meshel Opposed To Removal of Likud

The Histadrut secretary general announced that he was opposed to the removal of the Likud from the Histadrut. However, he also stated that "we dare not have a situation in which a recognized faction seeks (outside of Histadrut) a way to overcome decisions which a democratic majority took in the Histadrut." In response to the demand of the Likud that the Workers Cooperative Association grant a cost-of-living increase of 100 percent instead of 80 percent as was specified in the wage agreement, MK Meshel said: "...this is hypocrisy not truth."

The chairman of the Likud faction, Daniel Nehmani, followed in the footsteps of the Histadrut secretary general and expanded the political dispute which could have developed on any other political rostrum, "I appeal from this rostrum to the members of the Knesset and to the head of the opposition to be faithful to the State of Israel...you are doing everything possible to bring down the government..."

In referring to the attempts to prevent the Likud from moving its struggles in the Histadrut outside its confines, he stated: "...it is our right and our obligation as an opposition, without damaging the State and the Histadrut, to struggle against everything which we see as contrary to the truth, justice, and conscience." The chairman of the Likud delegation also had an explanation as to why the hierarchy of the Histadrut was seeking to advance the elections: "The moment the Alignment believes that there are prospects for it to increase its strength in the Histadrut, it wants to bring on elections so that the Alignment will have the power to weaken the workers community. This was the situation before the Likud government. This is the situation which the Alignment wants, and I do not understand how you do not comprehend the matter...."

No Roll-Call Votes

At the beginning of the session, the majority of the convention approved the proposal of the chairman of the preparatory committee, Aharon Harel, to change the rules of the convention so that the votes would be conventional--not roll-call ones as the Likud had demanded. Also rejected was the Likud demand to include on the agenda a motion to discuss the implementation of a 100 percent cost of living increase, and the updating of the points of credit and allowances for children.

The various speakers for the Likud repeated their criticism of the heads of the Histadrut for not including an update of the points of credit and allowances in the framework agreement with the representatives of the civil service. They sought to prove by this that the upper echelon of the Histadrut is primarily concerned about the established groups in the population, on the account of those with little means and large families. Against this background, a dispute erupted on more than one occasion as to who is a more faithful representative of the workers, during which the claim was heard numerous times from the ranks of the Likud that

the convention delegates of the Alinement do not represent the workers. From the benches of the Alinement came the repeated criticism of the Likud that its primary concern has been oriented towards government

Concerns Prove To Be Unfounded

The concerns of Aharon Harel over the distortion of the deliberation and intentional disturbances on the part of the Likud proved to be unfounded. There was one instance, which occurred slightly after noon, when the representative of the Likud, Shmuel Robert ascended the rostrum and remarked: "...everyone here speaks in the name of the worker. Who here is a worker? Whom amongst you have been workers all their lives or for many years? You have never worked in your lives. This amounts to a collection of communal workers. This is what you are.... The Likud made a serious error when it did not begin to move you, so that you would not have anything to eat.... You do not know any other language, only force.... You have created an economy of hidden unemployment in this nation, a nation of insurance agents and bookkeepers...."

The special session of the Histadrut convention yesterday was far from being an ideological convention. At best, it served as a forum for a repetitive and concentrated dispute between the Likud and the Alinement, in the well-known style of the executive committee. There was no confrontation between world outlooks.

The one-day session of the convention was primarily another political instrument in the struggle between the two large parties, on the level of trade union activists.

5830

CSU: 4805

ISRAEL

POLL ASSESSES STRENGTH OF POLITICAL PERSONALITIES

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jul 80 pp 1, 2

[Article: "Independent List Headed By Hurvitz Would Win Only Two Seats"]

[Text] If the Finance Minister Yigael Hurvitz would run together with MK Zalman Shoval at the head of an independent list in the Knesset elections, this list would not win more than two seats during the first half of July; in contrast with the three seats of the RAPI faction of the Likud in the present Knesset. This is apparent from the monthly public opinion poll conducted for the MONAITIN Monthly by Dr Mina Tzemah.

In light of the information that Hurvitz and Shoval are considering the possibility of establishing an independent list outside of the Likud structure, 1,219 interviewees were asked for whom they would vote "if Minister Yigael Hurvitz would leave the Likud and, together with MK Shoval, set up an independent list." It is evident from the responses that the electoral potential of such a list does not exceed 1.5 percent of the electorate, and this amounts to 2 seats: one at the expense of the Likud and one at the expense of the Alignment.

A MONAITIN poll in July tested the electoral potential of an independent list headed by Ezer Weizman. It is evident from the findings that if such a list were established, it would receive 12 seats during this month--8 of them at the expense of the Alignment and 3 at the expense of the Likud (in contrast with 16 seats in the June poll and 10 in the May poll).

The poll also examined the current potential of an additional option which has begun to be discussed in certain political circles--a partnership between Ezer Weizman and Moshe Dayan at the head of a new list. The responses of the interviewees indicate that if such a list were established it would receive (in July) 16 seats in the Knesset, 10 of them at the expense of the Alignment and 5 at the expense of the Likud.

The current election forecast for the first half of July, in comparison with the second third of June, reveals a rather stable picture. If the various lists were to run within their current structures and leadership

there would be only slight changes in their strength: the Alignment-61 seats (63 in June); the Likud-24 (25); NRP-11 (10); Agudat Yisrael-Po'alei Agudat Yisrael-6 (6); Hachiya-3 (2); Shai-1 (1); and the other lists -14 seats.

Slight Changes

Only slight changes--all in the sample-error range--were recorded in the July poll of MONAIDIN also, in the degree of popularity of the four leading candidates for prime minister. In response to the question as to which of the four--Yitzhaq Rabin, Menahem Begin, Shimon Peres, and Ezer Weizman--is most suitable for prime minister, Rabin received 35 percent of the votes (37.9 in June), Begin-22.5 percent (20.2), Peres-19.7 percent (21.1), Weizman-12.8 percent (12.3) with 10 percent abstaining (8.5). In comparison with the June poll, Weizman maintained his strength whereas Menahem Begin (who was hospitalized during the period of the poll) recovered more than half of the 3.7 percent which he lost between May and June and again passed Shimon Peres.

The general picture, however, remained unchanged: Yitzhaq Rabin continues to lead by a significant percentage, more than 55 percent ahead of the person in second place; Begin and Peres are close to one another in the popularity race, whereas Ezer Weizman continues to be last in the list without significant changes in his strength.

The comparability in the relative degree of support for Rabin and Peres is reflected in the poll in an additional question. In response to the question as to which of the two is more fit to be prime minister, Rabin received 57.3 percent of the votes against 29.6 percent for Peres (in June 57.6 against 30.2). As was the case in the previous polls, Rabin continues to lead Peres in all groups--age, education, countries of origin, and voters in the various lists, including the Alignment.

The July poll, however, included for the first time a new group--the group of members of the Alignment parties, that is to say members of the Labor Party and the MAPAM. It appears that among this group, Rabin received 53.1 percent against 41.3 percent for Peres.

3830

CSO: 4805

LIBERAL PARTY RIGHT GAINS INFLUENCE

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 80 p 9

[Article by Amnon Barzilai: "Strengthening of the Liberal Right"]

[Text] When Prime Minister Menachem Begin returned home after an extended stay in the hospital, he gave his assistants an urgent request. Begin requested immediate contact with the offices of the Tel Aviv municipality, specifically with Deputy Mayor David Shifman. In the telephone conversation, Begin congratulated Shifman on his election as the chairman of the central committee of the Liberal Party. Begin also apologized for his delay in sending his greeting because of his illness; he said that he was determined that when he returned home his first act would be to telephone him and congratulate him. Shifman, a public relations expert, told Begin that on the previous Sabbath in the synagogue, he made a NISHANARACH (the traditional prayer for the sick, the opening words of which are NISHANARACH, "He who blessed...") for the health of the prime minister, and the entire congregation responded, "Amen."

The short conversation was conducted within the framework of the customary courtesies. However, its political significance--like Shifman's victory over Minister Gideon Patt in the contest for the chairman of the party central committee--goes well beyond the normal democratic process. Step by step, the people of the chairman of the party leadership, Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, are capturing the dominant positions in the party. About 10 days ago, it was Shifman. This week, the candidate for victory is minister Moshe Nissim (a member of the coalition in the party headed by Moda'i) who will compete against IG Avraham Sharir for the chairmanship of the party leadership.

"The Quiet Revolution"

At the conclusion of the dramatic vote in the central committee of the party which convened in the American Zionist House and after a tense wait for the results of the vote, Gideon Patt said to the members of the central committee that he regards Shifman's victory in the vote as a great and personal achievement for he himself, in that the vote proved that

that half of the party backs him (backs Patai). The claim was designed to salvage the honor of Patai, whose personal status was always stronger than Shifman's. However, he was unable to erase "the quiet revolution" which took place among the Liberals. The Patai-Shifman struggle was indeed a personal one, however, the incisive fact is that Shifman--a hawk by the Liberal criteria--has views identical to those which represent Moda'i just as Patai is close in his positions to Simha Ehrlich. If Moshe Nissim defeats Avraham Sharir on Thursday in the central committee, Nissim will complete the hawkish triumvirate which will lead the party.

The change in the face of the Liberal Party--if Moda'i-Shifman-Nissim stand at its head (Ehrlich stands above them and has reconciled himself to the reality)--is not limited to a shift to the extreme on the political defense level only. The second development is shocking and more difficult to digest. At the head of the Liberal Party will be a religious and observant trio. Moda'i and Shifman--not to mention Nissim (the son of the former Sephardic chief rabbi)--are religious, observant, careful about eating only kosher food, do not travel on the Sabbath, and spend their Sabbaths and holidays in the synagogue. The strengthening of such a trio at the head of the Liberal Party (in contrast with the previous trio: Rimait, Ehrlich, and Dolain) will bring satisfaction to Begin. The quick telephone call to Shifman was an expression of Begin's political ability. The prime minister has perhaps disappointed his supporters in his abilities to govern, however, he has no peer in understanding internal politics and the analysis of party procedures. These internal developments foil a plan which has not yet died: to help the Liberals for the purpose of establishing a party of the center.

During the last year there was an increasing clamor in the Herut Movement for the dissolution of the Likud. This tendency is fed from several developments:

- *The prevailing trend in public opinion polls which project a Likud defeat and its return to the opposition.

- *The expected movement towards the extreme in the political-security positions of the Likud in the opposition.

- *The voices of Yigael Hurvitz and Zalman Shoval in the RAFI calling for separation.

- *The low regard for the leadership of the Liberal Party and its ability "to attract" votes.

- *Confidence in the Herut Movement--that as an independent party it could win 15-20 seats in the Knesset.

In the Herut Movement the electoral potential of the RAFI is more highly regarded than the strength of the Liberals. Owing to Hurvitz's hawkish positions, the minister of finance is considered to be an ally of Herut. However, if he establishes an independent party--the Herut people

believe--Hurvitz will not siphon off voters from the Herut Movement or the Likud but rather from the Labor Party, especially from the old settlement. Together with Moshe Dayan who, under the Likud administration, achieved public rehabilitation (and the possibility is not ruled out that Dayan will agree to join a political movement which will bear the RAFL name), the force which will sweep away such a list (established by [text missing] roster), will not be insignificant.

Without Hurvitz who, together with Zaiman Skoval, represents in Likud the wealthy property owners class, it will be easy for people such as David Levi to appeal to the voters and present them with a visiting card of a party which professes to help the poor and the underprivileged. The Liberals are in the category of "a bone in the throat." They are not helping David Levi improve the populist image of the Herut. Moreover, since according to the understanding in his movement, the Liberals carry no weight among the public, their representatives in the Knesset will occupy real and safe places of the Herut people. However, for those who want a dissolution of the Gahal partnership (the Likud was established on the basis of the agreement between Herut and the Liberals), there will be a problem with "the master of the house." As long as Begin is chairman of the movement, he will not permit the partnership between himself and the Liberals headed by Simha Ehrlich to be damaged. After Ehrlich finds that he cannot attack the new coalition in his party and joins it, Begin will not permit the Liberals to be hurt in the slightest.

Bone in the Throat

The Likud has once again fallen into a trapped position. The Herut does not want to absorb the Liberals, however, it is also unable to eject them. Although Herut does not need the Liberals in order to win over those who vote for it, the severing of the bonds which tie the Liberals to Herut will move them to the center of the political map. A unique opportunity will then be created: the Liberals would, in this event, fall like ripe fruit into the hands of Ezer Weizman, who is waiting to see the developments toward the elections to the Knesset.

Begin would not permit his major rival for the leadership of the Likud, a golden opportunity to establish a large centrist party at his expense. Those in the Herut movement who oppose the dissolution of the Likud will ultimately gain supremacy because their argument appears to be more logical. It is perhaps better to lose several seats for the good of the Liberals who will remain with them (in one pot), rather than to destroy the Liberal Party and push it to the center so that it would be a lever for the establishment of a centrist party--such a development would push the Herut back to the middle of the fifties. The changes in the leadership of the Liberals mean turning over control by democratic means to the hawks. However, this is a process which has not been completed, and even the hawks are not eager to flaunt it. In the meeting of the central committee which elected Shifman, the faction of Gideon Patt

decided "to run" Avraham Sharir for chairman of the party leadership. This position which was held by Ehrlich until the party convention was deprived of its powers with the revival of the institution of the party chairmanship, which was given to Ehrlich, and the establishment of the leadership institution--now headed by Noda'i with the election of Shifman as the chairman of the central committee.

However, in order to salvage their honor, Patt and Sharir were prepared to be satisfied with a position in the top leadership. In the deliberation which they held during the course of the meeting of the central committee, after it became known that Patt had been defeated, they decided to work for a vote of the party leadership that very day. Their consideration was tactical. Many of the coalition people had already gone home after Shifman's victory became known. Sharir had nothing to lose, and actually his prospects for defeating Nissim were rather good.

Simha Ehrlich foiled the Patt-Sharir action. He requested permission to speak, ascended the rostrum, and moved that the members of the central committee adjourn ("because of the heat and fatigue"). He suggested that the contest be held on another occasion. By a majority vote, and after the protests of the Patt and Sharir people, the members of the central committee went home. The election of Shifman was the first test of the party coalition headed by Noda'i. If Nissim is elected, it will be additional evidence of Noda'i's growing hold on the party.

The heads of the coalition now have a new trick up their sleeve. In collaboration with Simha Ehrlich and the chairman of the Liberal Workers Association Tavi Benner, they are working on a plan to establish a nominating committee which will select the Liberal candidates for the Knesset will be selected not by secret ballots in the central committee but rather in accordance with the new relationships of the forces which are strengthening the hawkish tendencies and tightening the bond between Herut and the Liberals.

3830

CSU: 4805

SHELI SEEN LOSING GROUND

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Jul 80 p 1

[Article by A. Kinert: "Danger of Disintegration in SHELI"]

[Text] The crisis in SHELI worsened with the "desertion" of MK Sa'adya Marciano from the movement; following his announcement that he would not vacate his seat in the Knesset in accordance with the rotation agreement, and the negotiations which he is conducting with MK Mordechai Algrabi on the establishment of a joint faction in the Knesset and a list for the coming elections--together with the Qled group and the Ha'ohalim movement in Jerusalem.

The SHELI institutions will apparently convene in the near future, in light of the danger of disintegration which threatens the movement. For the last two days discussions of this matter have been conducted with the participation of Me'ir Pa'il, Uri Avneri, and others; it is expected that there will be an official reaction by the institutions of SHELI to the Marciano affair. It is known that SHELI activists have been perturbed by the style of the debate between Marciano and Me'ir Pa'il, and because of the personal insults which they have exchanged.

Additional Departures Expected

SHELI is expecting the additional departures of Annon Zikhroni, a Ha'olam Haze man and a friend of MK Avneri, who will likely join the Labor Party and of Lova Eliav with whom Labor Party and MAPAM people have been conducting negotiations. Eliav is about to return to Israel from his sabbatical in the United States.

Also expected is the departure of a group of former MAQI members who became disenchanted with SHELI after joining it for organizational reasons--representation in the institutions, etc--and because of the position of its leaders on political issues, including relations with the PLO and contacts with PLO representatives abroad. A "pioneer" of this group who left was Yair Tzeven, who switched to MAPAM a month ago. It is known that there have been contacts by several former MAQI members with the Labor Party and MAPAM.

Marciano Wants Biton

MK Algrebli and MK Marciano are conducting intensive activity for the establishment of a joint movement which will include the Oded Movement, the Panthers from the neighborhoods and the Ha'ohalim people. Marciano wants to add his friend MK Charley Biton, a member of the HADASH (acronym for the Leftist Democratic Front) (RAKAH in the Knesset), to the Knesset faction and the proposed list. Biton's friends have said to him: "Leave RAKAH and Afghanistan and come to us."

Algrebli Wants Yitzhaqi

Yesterday, a RAKAH personality told DAVAR reporter that it can not be assumed that Biton will leave HADASH in order to join Algrebli and Marciano. In HADASH he has a free hand in an issue close to his heart, the social problems and the indigent neighborhoods. It is not impossible that Biton will appear in the HADASH list in the elections to the Tenth Knesset, this personality stated.

Algrebli is known to be working for the addition of MK Yitzhaq Yitzhaqi from the Likud to the proposed joint faction and for establishing a list to the Knesset with a "social-neighborhood platform," however, Yitzhaqi is still standing by his decision to run for the Knesset on the "One Israel" list headed by him.

Ha'ohalim Will Not Join

A DAVAR reporter on welfare matters adds:

"The Ha'ohalim Movement will not join the party established by MK's Algrebli and Marciano, however it is likely that it will collaborate with it."

A Ha'ohalim spokesman, D. Benvenisti, said yesterday that his movement welcomes the establishment of the political force which will be a preferable alternative to the parties active in Israel, however the Ha'ohalim will remain a social movement independent of any party.

5830
CSO: 4805

POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL CHANGE IN NATION ASSESSED

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 3 Jul 80 p 13

/Article by Muhammad Ma'tuq: "Will Normal Political Life Return to Jordan? The 'Opposition' Is Not Opposing and the Government Is Closing Itself in Ignorance"/

/Text/ It is no longer farfetched in Amman that normal political life might return, after having been repressed after the unsuccessful coup attempt 27 years ago. There are people who believe that the matter is imminent and that it might not take more than a few months.

Although no positive sign on the imminence of this possibility has yet been given by the authorities, preparations are being made by bodies and political parties to respond to a request which is expected to be made of them to play a role they have been deprived of for a long time.

Informed sources have told AL-SAFIR that there are two contradictory trends inside the Jordanian regime, one was expressed by the prime minister himself and the other embraced by some ministers, among them ones who share his desire that the "bitter party experience" not be repeated, but who do support a move toward a new experiment which will skirt the dangers of the past and respond to the need for "normal" political life in Jordan.

It is related that one of these ministers would prefer to establish a system of two parties or two political blocks in Jordan, provided that one of them constitute the ruling system and the other represent the opposition. However, this minister, who does not seem to be speaking for himself alone, stresses the need that the opposition and the loyal party alike be under the banner of the regime.

Signals about these contradictions or disputes within the regime must have reached the political parties functioning secretly under various rubrics. The course of the dispute going on within the government must also have inspired optimism among these parties, and they therefore determined 2 years ago to form what they called "the popular forces in Jordan," electing a secretariat general for themselves which issues statements on political developments in the Arab region.

This political grouping, which contains most of the national and progressive political parties operating in Jordan, alongside personalities well known for their nationalist positions, was formed in April 1978. One party personality in Amman insists that the notion of the grouping arose after the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon in March of that year.

Representatives of the political parties held their charter meeting at that time in the headquarters of the grouping of vocational unions of Jordan, in the elegant al-Shumaysani shop, and announced a charter bearing on the grouping which did not contradict official declared positions in its general policy sections. They then demanded that the authorities permit them to function, but the latter refrained and still do not recognize the secretariat general, in spite of the intense activity it was performing.

A Media Obfuscation

Through its dominance of all the media, the government has managed to ignore the secretariat general on purpose. The statements issued in the secretariat's name have sometimes been published, but under the name of "the Committee to Save Jerusalem," which also participates in the secretariat and enjoys official recognition by the government. The secretariat tried to win some recognition by deliberately issuing statements on positions which represent support for the viewpoint of the authorities (the declared one, at least). However, the statements did not reach public opinion, other than through the parties and bodies participating in this political grouping.

Some bodies participating in the abovementioned secretariat general describe this style of the authorities as proof of the insincerity of their general policy positions. If they really rejected Camp David, as they announced in a government statement, why didn't they allow the secretariat general to publish a statement supporting their position on Camp David and bearing verbal testimony to it?

Aspiration to Power

However, to some others who participate in the secretariat general, the picture does not seem so black. These people still point out how King Husayn himself attended the declaration of the birth of the national grouping following the June 1967 defeat, in order to absorb the popular resentment which had arisen from the defeat and Israel's occupation of the West Bank. These people do not rule out recognition of the secretariat general, corresponding to a recognition of the grouping, rest in peace, which was buried in September 1970, when specific conditions arise.

Because this possibility is not farfetched, the secretariat general is fully prepared for it, and secretariat sources expect that the king will come to it at any moment or invite it and ask it to form the new government. And so on.

Although the notion seems strange now, preparation for this desired moment is going on at full speed. The most prominent features of the preparation are two: one is emphasis on the unity of the destiny of the two peoples, the Jordanians and Palestinians, and the second is care not to have Palestinian organizations represented in the secretariat general.

Most political and party personalities which a person examining the horizons of political activity in Jordan might run into see no harm in participating in power in the context of the present regime of King Husayn, although not all have neglected to compare the political positions they declare with those of the authorities.

In any event, most of these personalities do not consider the grouping of popular forces to be an opposition movement or an opposition grouping: "There is nothing for us to oppose." This is because the situation of Jordan possesses a rare characteristic, that of a front line state surrounded by two radical regimes, in Damascus and Baghdad, whose position on peace with Israel is absolutely negative and blunt, though the Jordanian regime has been able, for a while at least, to satisfy these two regimes to a given degree without letting America or Israel think that it has burned the bridges to the field of direct negotiations.

Therefore, the regime's announced political positions do not stir up protest among national parties, although most of the time they stop at the border of words.

Relations with the Regime

In another area, most of the independent political personalities which participate in the secretariat general of the popular forces in Jordan are establishing firm ties and bonds with the regime. Some observers in Jordan wonder how there can be an "opposition" when most of the people in it are millionaires and include people who have grown rich from grants and concessions the regime itself has given them.

These observers cite examples. There is one person who owns a pier in al-'Aqabah, second, one who owns a plant with a private monopoly, then a third, fourth and fifth who own millions and have been graced with permits from the regime itself.

These observers wonder how this opposition, on which the regime is raining bounties, can be. Can it not be gleaned from this that it is an opposition tailor-made to the regime's measurements?

The fact is that no one in Amman with whom AL-SAFIR met, who is considered a leader of his party, which functions in secret, enthusiastically embraced the notion that the regime will change. Some of them ignore or avoid the issue entirely. Others reply by saying that there is no alternative to this regime. There are people who say that they do not see an alternative

even within the royal family, and go on to say that everything propagated in the past about the existence of disputes, struggles and contradictory tendencies within the ruling family is only a rumor. The king is the whole authority and the others, starting with the crown prince and ending with government official, are officials without assignments, except for one, namely 'Abd-al-Hamid Sharaf.

'Abd-al-Hamid Shaaf himself was an opponent in the past, and was sentenced in Jordan when he assumed the position of editor in chief of the magazine AL-HURRIYAH, spokesman for the Arab Nationalists' Movement before it was liquidated. Now, however, he is the prime minister and the second person in power, entrusted with all secrets.

However, 'Abd-al-Hamid Sharaf is no longer the Arab nationalist militant he was by nature. He repudiated this characterization before making a reconciliation with the regime, as one of the conditions of this reconciliation.

'Abd-al-Hamid Sharaf is not the only nationalist party man it was possible to assimilate into power; in fact almost more than half of every cabinet formed since 1957 has consisted of former Arab nationalists and Ba'thists. It is related that one non-government Jordanian personality once passed through Damascus in a previous era and was detained by intelligence for questioning. During the interrogation the man did not deny his strong relationship with the Jordanian regime--in fact replied by stating "Why aren't you in agreement with our Ba'thist regime in Amman?" This was because most of the members of the Jordanian cabinet at that time were former Ba'thists.

However, cooperating with opposition personalities is one thing and cooperating with opposition parties is something else. In Jordan's political history, very few cases have been recorded--and those were particular in nature--when party members of parties with a national progressive context reached the parliament and the cabinet. The first time was in the days of al-Nablusi's cabinet, where a working member of the Communist Party was elected to parliament and a working member of the Ba'th Party was included in the cabinet. The second time involved the social nationalists who were linked to King Husayn by special relations which were ruined by the party's position on the Jordan massacres of September 1970. Before that, the party managed to get two members into parliament, Ra'uf Abu Jabir and 'Abd-al-Halim al-Nimr; the second later became minister but by that time had finally left the party.

In spite of the distinctive relationship linking the Jordanian regime to them, the Moslem Brothers have remained a peripheral power in Jordan and were only once permitted to send a deputy to parliament. That was in the 1967 elections, before the Israeli occupation of the bank. At that time Yusuf al-'Azam ran successfully from Ma'an.

On the subject of the brothers, there are people who say they have eluded the grasp of the Jordanian regime and that practices they are pursuing which stir the wrath of Damascus are happening against the will of the regime. However, the phenomenon so far remains the same--that is, the brothers enjoy the greatest degree of political freedom in Amman.

The regime--and its intelligence, as has been related--know that the brothers pursue political activity and are not reducing it but are propagating their stands in mosques and institutes. Similarly, the regime knows about the activity of all political parties operating secretly in Jordan. However, according to one source in the grouping of popular forces, it is anxious to maintain a brilliant image abroad, thus only resorts to repression when it sees that a danger is being realized. This danger occurs whenever any operating party reaches a good organizational level and constitutes a force which must be constantly watched. At that point the regime acts and strikes to stifle it.

A Tendency To Crystallize

Is it now possible to expect the return of political life to Jordan in reality? It is difficult to predict the answer, although a basic condition is necessary for this, and that is that independent personalities cast a broad shadow over any grouping of popular forces so that the distinguishing features of every grouping will be obliterated and all national parties will attach themselves to them. Thus the grouping will turn into an opposition party standing on the other side of client forces, which may perhaps make up a party in the near future, as long as this remains the greatest degree of tolerance the regime can provide, and the nationalist parties can only accept or decline.

11887

CSO: 4802

CONFLICTING FORCES CRITICIZED FOR DISRUPTING NATION

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 28 Jun 80 pp 1, 17

[Article by Dr George Farshakh: "In a Stormy Conversation with AL-QABAS in Paris, Raymond Iddih Draws the Map of the Partition of Lebanon!"]

[Text] I brought a map of Lebanon along, went to Dean Raymond Iddih, spread it out in front of him and said, "Dean, the talk about Lebanon these days deals only with partition. Is partition realistic, and how?" The dean started to draw the partition map as people had presented it to him. However, he soon paused and said with obvious irritability, "No, no, I can't. It's not permissible." The pen was moving over the map, like a knife cutting into the body of a living man--not to say the body of the dean. He threw the pen down, rolled up the map and said, "Let's just talk."

The dean had prepared us a copy of a statement by "al-Jumayyil's son," as he calls him, in which al-Jumayyil the younger (Bashir) said that if the Moslems did not agree to a format then it would be better for "al-Jumayyil's son" to reach agreement with Abu 'Ammar over the partition of Lebanon. The dean said, "This is basically their schema." During the conversation, the dean received a phone call and we heard him discussing the subject of the formation of the cabinet, then telling the person who addressed him "a cabinet of activities, indeed a cabinet of children--since Ezer Weitzmann has resigned from Begin's cabinet, why don't they ask him to form the children's cabinet in Lebanon?"

These days, it is difficult to talk with the dean. True, he is a democrat, as he says, but he cannot bear criticism of his opinions. When he gets vexed, he says, "Are you here to ask questions or to get the answers you want?" If you insist on arguing, he will threaten to increase the volume of his attack on President Hafez al-Assad and Syria, on grounds that you will be scared.

You come out of a discussion with Dean Iddih in despair. Not even the road to partition is blocked, but has become open. The dean recognizes

that he has failed to thwart the schemes, and that they are all dwarves in Lebanon.

I ask him if he would agree to return to a partitioned Lebanon and he says "I am fighting partition, and cannot imagine that Lebanon will be partitioned."

The conversation took place in the dean's apartment in the Hotel Prince de Galles, as follows:

AL-QABAS: Where is Lebanon going?

The dean: So far, toward collapse. In Lebanon there is no state except in name, and the territory of Lebanon is occupied by Syria, Israel and the Phalange Party. Communism [he means "legitimacy"] exists in less than one quarter of a percent (0.25 percent) of the area.

AL-QABAS: And the Palestinians?

The dean: Syria and the Palestinians are the same body.

AL-QABAS: But dean, there are 20 Palestinian organizations.

The dean: I mean the Palestine Liberation Army. When the Syrian forces withdrew from some centers and barriers, to whom did they hand these positions over? To the liberation army.

AL-QABAS: How is the "occupation" broken down, in your opinion?

The dean: Eighty-five percent of the territory of Lebanon is under Syrian-Palestinian occupation, 10 percent is under the dominance of the Israeli army, that is, from the al-Litani River to the borders with Israel, and 4.75 percent is under the dictatorship of the Phalange (that is, the al-Ashrafiyah area of Beirut, half of al-Matn, Kasrawan and Jubayl). Legitimacy exists on less than one quarter of 1 percent (0.25 percent), that is, in Ba'abda Palace, the gardens around it, the al-Fayadiyah Barracks, part of al-Hadth, 'Ayn al-Rummanah and Fum al-Shabbak.

AL-QABAS: But the Syrian forces now have a legitimate presence. They are a factor in the Lebanese situation, and for us to keep repeating that they are occupation forces or legitimate forces does not add or detract anything, especially from here, from Paris.

The dean: That is your opinion. I, however, say that the Lebanese authorities are harassed and that if you conduct a referendum among all Lebanese circles you will find that the overwhelming majority want the withdrawal of the Syrian forces. However, some Lebanese who are Christians are clinging to the Syrian army.

AL-QABAS: Let me go back to my first question: where is Lebanon going?

The dean: I said, toward collapse. I now add, I do not know. Maybe it will be partitioned, in implementation of the plan drawn up by the former American Secretary Henry Kissinger, which aims at settling 500,000 Palestinians in Lebanon.

The Partition of Lebanon Will Afflict the Arabs with a Contagious Disease

AL-QABAS: 400,000 or 500,000? There is a big difference

The dean: Who knows? Who can give you precise figures? Kissinger's plan calls for the settlement of Palestinians in the section which might then become Moslem Lebanon. Israel will take the portion lying south of the al-Litani River, once the majority of the Shiites migrate north of the al-Litani. As for Syria, the al-Biq'a, 'Akkar and the town of Tripoli will be severed to compensate it for the Golan and for the fatigue it has endured in order to stop the fighting--which is still continuing--if it does not insist on putting its hands on the port of Beirut, at which point Hafez al-Assad will become the Napoleon of the region because he will gather the transit movement to the whole Arab region in his hands.

AL-QABAS: That talk isn't serious, dean. Napoleon, enduring fatigues, transit movement--there is a big political game in the region. Will Iraq agree? Will Egypt be quiet? And so on.

The dean: That talk isn't serious? We Lebanese will never change. That is how they always answered me. What has the result been? Lebanon now is actually partitioned. Since 1974, I have been saying that there was a Kissinger plan to "Cypriotize" Lebanon and "Balkanize" the area. I tried to repel this plan by diplomatic means. So far, I have not been successful in my mission. Therefore I am directing an appeal and a warning to the Arab countries, I am telling the Arabs: come let us convince America that the interests of the region require that Lebanon survive, because, if Lebanon disappears or is partitioned, the contagious disease of partition will move to other Arab countries. The Arabs all must stand up to this plan and act to thwart this conspiracy.

There Are Partition Maps

AL-QABAS: Has anyone discussed partition with you?

The dean: I have always been in favor of a united Lebanon and against partition. Those who have held discussions with me, and stated that peaceful coexistence between Moslems and Christians could come about only through partition, have received nothing from me, and I have never agreed to their plans.

AL-QARAS: Who has held discussions with you?

The dean: There is no need to mention names. The people who have partition plans are well known.

AL-QARAS: Is there a partition map?

The dean: There are partition maps.

AL-QARAS: Could you draw them for us specifically on this map?

The dean: Of course it is possible. After the dean started to draw the map, he threw the pen away and stated, with obvious irritability: No, I cannot continue. It's not possible. I am in a serious situation.

AL-QARAS: Where does the real danger to Lebanon come from?

The dean: From Israel. Israel wants to expand up to the al-Litani River. Were it not for the expansionist Zionist scheme, we would now be living in peace. Of course a responsibility lies on the Lebanese rulers who thought lightly of the Israeli danger, and whose rule was based on indifference to this danger; the result was that Lebanon lost its unity and its sovereignty. The Arab countries, and Syria in particular, bear great responsibility for what we have ended up with. As for the Palestinians, they came as refugees, then bore arms after the collapse of the Arab armies in 1967. They are now using the diplomatic field to acquire a country. The Palestinian people have a right to a country. This country can only be in Palestine.

AL-QARAS: Regarding what has happened in Lebanon?

The dean: I am not trying to exonerate the Palestinians for what has happened in Lebanon. However, I do hold the Lebanese authorities who signed the Cairo Agreement with them responsible for what has happened, permitting them to roam around outside the camps with arms and asking them to take charge themselves of protecting their camps, when Abu 'Amar came and asked the Lebanese authorities to protect the Palestinian camps after the assassination of the three leaders Kamal Nasir, Kamal 'Adwan and Abu Yusuf. No Arab country has allowed the Palestinians to use its territory the way they have been permitted to use Lebanon.

The Cause of Lebanon No Longer Concerns Anyone

AL-QARAS: Do you believe that the cause of Lebanon still concerns the world?

The dean: Most sadly, I can say no. The Israeli issue is the one which concerns the world in the first place, followed by the Palestinian issue. The importance of the Palestinian issue arises from the fact that it is linked to the general situation in the oil region, which is extremely

delicate, and the fact that it offers confidence for the destiny of the Zionist state. As for Lebanon, no one is any longer concerned about it. Its rulers must travel abroad and plead the Lebanese case in Europe, America and the United Nations.

AL-QABAS: What is your personal contribution to the process of searching for a solution?

The dean: I, as a deputy, am studying what would be the optimum solution on Lebanon's behalf. I believe that the optimum solution would be to establish a nation for the Palestinians in Palestine, at which point Lebanon would relax, because, even if some of the Palestinians remained on its territory, they would have the same rights and duties that apply to every foreigner.

The Reconciliation Plan--Hypocrisy!

AL-QABAS: Have they taken your opinion on reconciliation?

The dean: No, no one has consulted with me. The reconciliation plan, as it has been set forth now, is a hypocrisy and a diversion.

AL-QABAS: Do you believe that Lebanon still enjoys its independence? What is your opinion about putting it under United Nations trusteeship? Couldn't that be the start of a solution?

The dean: First of all, what is your notion of the word "independence?" If the word independence means a state which is independent of another state by law, Lebanon is a country which is independent of Syria, Israel and the other countries in the area. If the word independence means a sovereign state, Lebanon today is an independent state but does not enjoy full sovereignty.

As regards the United Nations trusteeship, a state which is put under trusteeship is a "deficient" state, and there is no doubt that if we take the opinions of some Lebanese today who want to live in dignity and security, and who want to rid themselves of exploitation by parties, we will find that these people want to be put under a United Nations trusteeship, in spite of the fact that Article 78 of the United Nations Organization Charter states that the system of trusteeship does not apply to countries which have joined as members in the organization. I will remind you that I many times asked that foreign or mixed foreign-Arab international forces be sent to take the place of the Syrian army, provided they were under the command of the secretary general of the United Nations, and that their task be that of a force supporting the Lebanese army, so that it could collect the heavy arms in the possession of the Palestinian resistance and the militia, and protect the Palestinian camps from Israeli and other aggressions--naturally while keeping the international forces in the south to expel the Israeli army in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426.

The Maronites against the Lebanese Front

AL-QABAS: You are a Maronite leader, and you are opposed to the Lebanese Front, which claims to represent the Maronites. Does it really represent them?

The dean: The Maronites of Lebanon are spread about over all the areas of Lebanon. What is left of what is called the Lebanese Front, valled up in al-Ashrafiyah, half of al-Ramn, Kasruwan and Jubayl does not represent all the Maronites at all--it does not even represent the Maronites residing in the areas which the front dominates, or, more precisely, which the fascist Nazi Phalange Party dominates. The Maronite majority turned against the Chamounite and Phalange parties because of the militia's behavior and vicissitudes in political alliances. Today they agree to the Cairo Agreement and tomorrow they will turn against it. Today they are on the side of the Palestinians and the noble guerrilla and tomorrow they will be against him. Today they resort to having the Syrian army come and tomorrow they will fight against it. Today they ally themselves with Israel and receive arms from it to protect the Christians and tomorrow they will state and declare that Israel wants to exploit the Christians and use them for its own interests. The Maronite people have become convinced that that this leadership has failed, but they cannot rid themselves of it because of the Phalangist dictatorship, because it is the only military authority present in the region. The majority of the Maronites do not want partition; they want Lebanon to regain its independence and sovereignty.

AL-QABAS: When will you return to Lebanon?

We Are All Dwarves

The dean: When it becomes in the power of the Lebanese authorities to replace the Syrian army group which is present in the Ministry of Information a few meters away from my house with a Lebanese army group. I have personally conveyed this request to the prime minister, Salim al-Huss, who said that it was an easy request. However, a week later he contacted me from Beirut through a major official in the office of the premier to inform me that he was unable to carry out this modest demand. I am not asking that to create a paralysis but for reasons related to my dignity as a Lebanese deputy and because I have been exposed to two assassination attempts within sight of this group and it did not try to intervene--perhaps because it knew about the attempts.

AL-QABAS: Are there heroes in Lebanon?

The dean: The events have proved that we are all dwarves.

AL-QABAS: But you and -

The dean: All of us in Lebanon are dearves.

11887

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INVOLVEMENT IN WEST AFRICAN DISPUTES REVIEWED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21-27 Jul 80 pp 13-14

[Article by al-Salasi al-Ihanni: "What Happened Between the Republic of the Post and the Jamahiriyah of the Colonel?"]

[Text] The outbreak of the dispute between Libya and Senegal, which led to the severance of relations between the two countries, is another indication of the tense situation in the area of the Arab Maghrib and the area of the Southern Sahara in Africa. Were we to accept the reasons given by the two sides for the eruption of this dispute, we would come up with nothing more than mere disagreements between two regimes which have conflicting interests. However, there is more to the matter than this, because the factors and motivations that brought the breach between Tripoli and Dakar cover a whole region, and include issues of balance of power and international conflicts.

Officially, Senegal accuses the Jamahiriyah of acting as a host for the Islamic-oriented Senegalese opposition, which is trying to overthrow the Senghor regime by armed force, and of enabling this opposition to get arms, materiel and training in Mali and northern Senegal, where the Muslim Senegalese tribes live. Libya charges Senegal with representing French interests in Africa and with implementing Paris' policy, which is delineated at the Franco-African summit every year. Colonel al-Qadhafi, therefore, broke relations with Dakar, and called upon France to represent Senegal in the Jamahiriyah, in line with his earlier announcement that the Jamahiriyah would sever relations with African countries maintaining close relations with France. This means that the crisis between Senegal and the Jamahiriyah falls within the context of the French-Libyan struggle in Africa.

However, when this crisis erupted, Libyan-French contacts were under way to normalize relations between the two countries, and arrange for the return of the French ambassador to Tripoli and the recognition by the French Foreign Ministry of the Libyan People's Bureau in Paris as a form of diplomatic mission. Although these contacts have had no major results,

the two sides hope to come up with permanent solutions on the political issues outstanding between the two countries, because economic relations have continued even though French-Libyan political relations had gone downhill.

French circles say that the remaining obstacle between the two countries is the situation in Chad, as they are still giving indirect support to Mouyyn Habre whom Libya regards, with justice, as a rebel against the legitimate authority as represented by Goukouni. The French believe that the break in Libyan-Senegalese relations was understood in Paris to be an attempt to put pressure on France to withdraw from Chad for good, and to abandon its African policy. The Libyan-Senegalese, however, also has a connection with another problem, which is still, in one way or another, helping to stir up disagreements among the countries of the Arab Maghrib. This is the Western Sahara issue, the debates on which, at the OAU [Organization of African Unity] summit in Freetown, coincided with the break in Libyan-Senegalese relations as a result of the hardline position taken by Dakar on backing Morocco. Tripoli viewed this as siding with the Moroccan plan to resolve the Western Sahara issue. In fact, the Libyan-Senegalese disputes do not arise only from the reasons we have already mentioned. These are merely factors which expedited the emergence and escalation of these disputes to the point of breaking off relations.

The essence of the dispute goes back to the Libyan thrusts toward the area of West Africa, particularly Mauritania, Mali and the Western Sahara, which, Senegalese sources allege, are primarily military thrusts. Official Senegalese circles have leaked a report to French papers that Libya has built a secret military airbase north of Mali that could be used by Senegalese teams in lightning strikes against government institutions in Senegal. Also, the deteriorating French-Mauritanian relations on the one hand, and the emergence of the Libyan presence in Nouakchott, particularly economically, have made Dakar perceive a direct threat to what it calls its vital surroundings north of the Senegal River. Since the coup against Ould Dada in 1978, Senghor has threatened several times to annex this area, if the new Mauritanian authorities launched a campaign to Arabize the country.

Since the Military Committee for National Salvation in Mauritania assumed power, the issue of the northern Senegal River has become a candidate for turning into an international issue, similar to the Western Sahara issue, particularly after Senghor's government hosted a group of opponents to the government of Ould Haidalla in Nouakchott. Dakar intends to push this group to announce a government in exile on the pattern of the Saharan government of the Polisario Front.

To the Jamahiriya, which is now taking a greater interest in the issues of the Arab Maghrib since the breakup of the Confederation of Arab Republics and the switch of al-Sadat's Egypt toward Washington, this means that its policy in the area is now threatened, particularly since some have

begun to talk about the possibility of Algerian flexibility in dealing with the Western Sahara issue. Consequently, the Jamahiriyah would find itself facing a whole set of unpropitious conditions and climates in the area of the Arab Magrib and south of the Sahara. Therefore, Senegal appeared to be a weak link in the interface of these conditions that could be curbed and threatened with collapse by blocking it from engaging in any activity outside its borders.

Coming Developments

It does not appear that the crisis between the Jamahiriyah and Senegal will end with the severance of diplomatic relations, not only as a result of the probable start in Moroccan-Algerian negotiations about the Western Sahara or, at least, Algerian caution toward Polisario activity, but as a result of reports about Libyan help in forming a federation between Western Sahara and Mauritania, extending to northern Senegal and possibly including some parts of Mali. Completion of this project, which now constitutes the subject of discussions by political circles in Paris, depends not only on the willingness of the parties concerned, that is, Nouakchott and the Polisario Front, but on the blessing of other quarters concerned, such as Algeria and Morocco, and on the extent to which there is annexation of districts in both Senegal and Mali (Dagana and Matam in Senegal and [Khasaw?] in Mali), areas which include tribes similar to, if not related to the tribes of Western Sahara and Mauritania and the Taurega of southern Algeria.

One thing conducive to completion of this plan is the fact that the tribes concerned do not recognize established borders, since they are nomadic tribes that wander across the desert, preserving their own tribal organization. This would make it easy to include them by mere agreement of their shaykhs under the banner of Islam.

The obstacles to this plan are many; most importantly the fact that some of the tribes still swear loyalty to the monarchy in Morocco and others live most of the time on Algerian soil, while the tribes of northern Senegal have begun to turn to agrarian sedentary life. Have governments, including Algeria, adopted such an Islamic Sahara Federation project? That is the question.

In any case, the crisis which began between the republic of the poet, Senghor, and the Jamahiriyah of Colonel al-Qadhafi, is not one of limited dimensions. Rather, it covers the whole area of West Africa. Therefore, its consequences will begin to emerge in the near future: either a Western negotiated solution will be accomplished for the Western Sahara issue, or there will be involvement in preparing the plan for an Islamic Sahara Federation. Between this possibility and that one, the quarrels will continue with accompanying benefits for the big powers, particularly France, which still feels that its African interests are not seriously threatened.

BRIEFS

NEW BOOK ON JAMAHIRIYA--Moscow, 15 Ramadan-27 July (JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY). A new work has just been published in the Soviet Union by the House of Science. It concerns the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, under the title "Libya On The Path Of Independence, Of Social Progress," and was written by the Soviet writer Sorine Tomassian. The author treats, in the first part, there are 11 parts, the (Djihad) combat of the Libyan Arab people against Italian colonialism and the period of so-called independence at the time of the restored monarchy. Then the author analyzes the circumstances of the great revolution of the fatch and describes the situation at the time when Libya was under the yoke of the American and British colonial bases and of the multinationals, which pillaged the petroleum resources of the country. The writer devotes several parts of his book to the power of the people in the Jamahiriya, of which he speaks knowledgeably since he served an ambassador to Libya. The writer analyzes the gigantic achievements of the grand revolution of 1 September over the past decade. [Text] [Paris BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN DE L'AGENCE JAMAHIRIYA-PRESSE in French 27 Jul 80] 8956

IRANIAN NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ON JAMAHIRIYA--Tripoli 8 Ramadan-20 July (JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY). In the series of articles that it is publishing on the Jamahiriya, the Iranian newspaper AZKIKAN praised the experiments of the Jamahiriya in the creation of people's markets in all the regions of the Jamahiriya, which are considered to be the best way to fight the high cost of living and the monopolies and to put an end to the society of exploitation and domination. The newspaper also recalled that the Libyans had suffered very much from the monopolies and dealers who dominated the markets where they sold merchandise at excessive prices for quick profits. In its report, the newspaper has in addition drawn up a comparison between the prices in the people's markets and those which existed in the public markets. [Text] [Paris BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN DE L'AGENCE JAMAHIRIYA-PRESSE in French 21 Jul 80] 8956

SUPPORT FOR JAMAHIRIYA--Beirut, 12 Ramadan-24 July (JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY). The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine has affirmed its support of an aggression on the part of the Egyptian president against the Arab people of Libya. The Front has also expressed the esteem in which it holds the grand revolution of 1 September, its courageous positions and its accomplishments in favor of the liberation of Palestine and of the occupied Arab

territories. That is the essence of a communique released yesterday in Beirut, following the visit of a delegation of the Front to the Jamahiriya between 14 and 17 July. According to this communique, the delegation of the Front has had a number of meetings with the brothers in the Jamahiriya. Following these meetings, which took place between the General Union of Students of the Jamahiriya and the Student Bureau of the Front, the two parties affirmed their strong desire to pursue cooperation in the student domain. They agreed to coordinate and exchange their points of view on the problem of student employment in the Arab fatherland, or elsewhere, and to work in common toward that goal. The communique affirmed that the Palestinian armed revolution is pursuing its efforts to liberate the land of Palestine, in order to contribute to the rising up of the masses in the occupied territory, to concretize the solidarity of the Palestinian revolution with the national movement in southern Lebanon and to halt the projects for settlement which aim only at stifling the revolution and at destroying the national identity of the Palestinian people. (Text) [Paris BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN DE L'AGENCE JAMAHIRIYA-PRESSE in French 24 Jul 80] 8956

CSO: 4800

MAURITANIA

MINISTER NOTES GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE FOOD SHORTAGE

Nouakchott CHAAB in French 18 Jul 80 p 3

[Interview with Mohamed Ould Amar, minister of rural development--date and place not given]

[Text] In an interview that he granted the AMP [Malagasy Press Agency], Mr Mohamed Ould Amar, minister of rural development, talked about all aspects of the country's policy in the rural sector.

This policy, the minister said, makes our country's food self sufficiency a fundamental concern.

The land problem and the return of our people to their homelands were touched on by the minister who pointed out that the goal of our country's agricultural policy is to make it possible for our people to lead a decent and harmonious life.

[Question] Mr Minister, since the advent of the movement of 10 July, the priority in the rural sector has gradually been becoming a reality. Among the goals to be achieved in this plan, food self sufficiency occupies a high place. Can we find out the results obtained in this area?

[Answer] Our country's food self sufficiency is indeed one of the government's basic concerns. Our dependency on imports and donations of food products, especially grain, has become, owing to the persistence of the drought, very disturbing: our national production still scarcely covers 20 percent of our needs.

Steps have of course been taken to ensure the country's food security in time of climatic-agricultural distress, with among other things, the establishment of the food assistance commissariat; but the basic problem remains: i.e., the development of our productive capacity.

Hence we have firmly oriented our policy in this direction and the achievements have followed: a campaign to promote and expand market-garden crops and projects inaugurated and guided, particularly in arid areas like Lajoun in Inehiri or N'Beika in Tagant; dams have been repaired or built, for example, in the severely tested region of Tamchekett; the agricultural services have embarked on basis programs in favor of dry crops, which still represent a primary part of our production, in spite of the unpredictable and freakish nature of our climate. Moreover it is in order to shake off this climatic insecurity that we are devoting all our efforts to acquiring the management of water and developing the irrigated areas that are vital to our food self sufficiency. This is a struggle that promises to be long and difficult but whose implementation will be undertaken during the next plan. Let's mention only black Gorgol and Aftout-Es-Sahel, the financing for which is in progress, to justify a measure of confidence in the future.

[Question] With the appearance of the drought phenomenon and to a certain extent with the modernization of farming, the land problem poses itself again with acuteness. Solving it, on the one hand, will facilitate achieving food self sufficiency and, on the other hand, will condition the success of the rural development strategy in our country.

Mr Minister, what are you contemplating to solve this ticklish problem?

[Answer] It is true that the land issue has become acute and everyone must realize the difficulties that we are encountering in this ticklish area.

The pilot "ease" of Gorgol is still suffering from the insolvency of our modern legislation in the land area and from its ineffectuality for allowing the settlement of issues that arise during the development of lands and of their improvement. This example shows how urgent it is that the state undertake a decisive investigation of this question to attain development's real socio-economic objectives.

While waiting for such legislation, we have studied solutions among which, we are sure, the landowners, the non-owner farmers, and the government will find the one that will restore vitality to this "ease" of Gorgol, which has proved itself worthy by its exceptional productive capacity. This first Mauritanian installation in the area of managing water should become the jewel of our irrigated farming.

[Question] Question on the management of water and the protection of the environment: These are two closely linked problems and they constitute two important parts in conjunction with the accomplishment of food self sufficiency. Can you tell us, Mr Minister, your specific achievements in these areas?

[Answer] As you say, these issues of the management of water and protection of the environment are closely linked, and each of them is an element in our policy to return the inhabitants to the land with a view to agricultural production.

The vicious circle formed by desert encroachment, the decrease in production, and the rural exodus has established itself and we have to break it in several places.

This is the reason that we recently sponsored a seminar on desert encroachment in which numerous countries that are friendly to us and several international or regional organizations participated. Our battle plan against this scourge was defined at this time and we are determined to carry it out with international cooperation but above all with the help of the inhabitants concerned who have become cruelly aware of the threat that weighs on them. Direct action has been carried out to enlarge the network of fire screens, to set up reforestation nurseries; increased surveillance of forests and the merciless suppression of improper or illegal cuts are on the agenda.

A national tree day will be celebrated in August that will symbolize our collective desire to recover the land abandoned to the desert.

As a result of this policy, rural inhabitants will have less precarious living conditions and a more favorable environment for traditional life and work at their disposal.

This is where water comes in, a vital factor and one that we not only need to find more of but we need to manage parsimoniously since it is as precious and as expensive as it is.

We have undertaken numerous activities as a prelude to the implementation of a bold water policy: the planning of the use of water is under study, the hydrometeorological system is being expanded, the research of methods to use solar and eolian energy has gotten off to a start.

Finally the mobilization of water resources and the management of water constitute the primary goals of the hydraulic and rural engineering departments and SONADER [National Rural Development Company]. The achievements are far from being insignificant. The getting under way of 26 drillings, the construction and the repairing of 139 wells, the installation of two solar pumps, the laying of more than 40 kms of pipe to carry water from our capital overburdened by the influx of rural populations, the construction of four dams that will make it possible to farm more than 400 hectares of grain crops at N'Beika, the 10 irrigated hectares of Lejoua that I have already mentioned, and this list is far from being exhaustive.

All these projects are encouraging but still greatly inadequate. Development activities should be integrated and should be concerned with all socio-economic aspects of the problem posed; its cost is therefore extremely high.

This is being tested in all the areas of the rural sector, whether it is a question of farming, hydraulics, or animal husbandry; this is the reason that indepth studies are being undertaken on this sector and its potentialities

that will make it possible to better plan our rural development and integrate as much as possible the social, ecological, and economic factors, the links among which we have raised. Thus it is an important step towards the working out of solutions to our problems and towards food self sufficiency in particular.

[Question] Mr Minister, what results have been obtained in the campaign launched a year ago to protect the livestock?

[Answer] It is important first of all to review in a few words the extremely difficult conditions that presided over this protection campaign, the results of which you are asking me about now.

In order to do this, let's go back in time a little. The year 1979 was characterized by a sizable rainfall shortage. This did not fail to occasion a very large shortage in grazing land in the whole animal husbandry area of our country. This fact resulted, at the livestock level and particularly with regard to cattle, in undernourishment and a resurfacing of the contagious and food-deficiency diseases, which as early as the month of April began carrying off animals.

Faced with this situation that grew worse day by day, my department launched the program you are alluding to and the goal of which was:

--to distribute free cattle feed to animals in the disaster-struck areas.

--supply water to the areas that had grazing land that was not being used because of the lack of water.

--to strengthen the sanitary condition of the livestock by deparasiting and, if necessary, vaccinating.

Concerning the results themselves of the campaign, it is important that you realize that:

--2,300 tons of cattle feed were distributed free.

--some 200 to 300,000 head of livestock in the area of Kaedi-Maghama alone benefited from a regular procurement of water. At this level the results were highly positive, sizable quantities of milk at low deposits in May were collected daily by the cattle raisers.

On the sanitation level, close to 100,000 animals were affected by deparasiting and vaccination programs. These programs proved to be very highly effective because no outbreaks of the disease appeared during the whole period of the campaign.

A sharp fall in conjunction with this would certainly lead to fresh outbreaks of certain diseases well known to our cattle raisers. To summarize, I'd say that the principal outcome of this campaign has been the strong reduction in the number of fatalities noted in all animal husbandry areas of our country.

[Question] Where are we, Mr Minister, in the implementation of the policy that seeks to encourage investments in agro-pastoral enterprises?

[Answer] As you know, new investment laws have been promoted [sic], with the intent to promoting, in particular, investments in agro-pastoral enterprises. They have considerable importance and we are studying several projects on tomatoes. However these laws are very recent and their practical application in the rural sector involves only a few files submitted to the investment committee in the area of chicken raising for example.

However we intend to widely promote the private sector with a view to developing our agro-industry and to give the most attention to these new laws so that our farming and animal husbandry benefit as much as possible for the sake of the whole country. Private capital is indeed vital to our rural development and everything must be done to encourage investments in the rural sector. The needs certainly are considerable, taking into account the costs of development, factories, equipment, and the weakness of our present infrastructure; it is inconceivable that the government can assume the necessary program on public funds and it is therefore crucial to attract Mauritanian and foreign capital.

Our whole policy, you have seen, seeks to make it possible for the nation and its citizens to live decently and in harmony with the habits, the environment that are the foundation of our traditional culture. Hence it is a question of the fact that our people reoccupy the land that they abandoned, pushed by the need to find the food and work that the drought had deprived them of.

So it is obvious that our campaign against desert encroachment and for the management of water is, in itself, one of the most important sections in the struggle against the rural exodus; it alone makes it possible to restore a tool for production and a receptive land to the inhabitants, and it is the condition even for agricultural production and the settlement of the people.

All this is accompanied by parallel steps within the scope of a development policy rethought in light of the drought's catastrophic effects felt by the whole community.

As a result, the notion of projects has changed, as well as their method of utilization and people are applying themselves to integrating all the aspects of social day-to-day living, whether it be education, health, or communications. The 36 drillings are an example: people provided for, in addition to draining equipment, drinking-troughs for the livestock, the need to water

gardens, and boundary markers for communities. Black Corgol will be another place where a complete socio-cultural infrastructure to meet the needs of a village community will be provided for. The administrative plan, drawn up for Tagant, is another one where all the constraints that are a burden on a harmonious regional development have been taken into account.

I feel that in this way, we are on the right path and that the trend will soon be reversed, as a result of the return of our farmers to their better protected lands and of our cattle raisers to better developed and more dependable community pastures. This is our aspiration.

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CBO: 4400

MAURITANIA

BRIEFS

HEAVY LOSSES OF CATTLE--Nouakchott, 9 Sep (AFP)--More than 70 percent of the cattle in eastern and central Mauritania have died because the rains were late and sparse this year, Rural Development Minister Mohamed Ould Amar said in a newspaper interview published here. Mr Ould Amar told the DAILY CHAAB that the government had begun buying up cattle from the hardest-hit regions in a bid to preserve the herds. He said that precipitation was only 40 percent of normal in certain agricultural regions during July, and he added that a short rainy season will be disastrous for cattle because their forage will not have finished its growth cycle before the hot season begins in October. In 1979, Mauritania was one of the countries worst affected by drought in the Sub-Saharan Sahel belt. The country's grain deficit was 75,000 tons, most of which was made up by other countries and international organizations. [Text] [AN091630 Paris AFP in English 1547 GMT 9 Sep 80]

CSO: 4420

PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED ON DOMESTIC, REGIONAL ISSUES

Algiers EL-DJEICH in French Jul 80 pp 29-32

[Interview with President Ali Nasser Mohammed, in Aden, by Hacene Baadji; translated from the Arabic by H. Timalline--date not given]

[Text] In the context of his reporting on the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDY), our reporter Hacene Baadji took advantage of his presence in Aden to interview President Ali Nasser Mohamed, secretary of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and prime minister of the PDY.

The interview ranged over several questions of great interest relative to Yemen, the Arab world, and the rest of the world.

And here is the translation in full.

[Question] The Yemeni Socialist Party has set several goals to attain, among which is elevation of the economic-social level of the Yemeni people as a whole. How far has this come, so far? And how much emphasis is placed in the second Five-Year Plan on utilization of local resources? Finally, what part will foreign technical assistance play in the execution of this plan.

[Answer] The YSP, as the program of the democratic national revolution, decreed by the first party congress, stipulates, envisions the development of the various sectors of the national economy and the improvement of the material and spiritual conditions of existence of the laboring masses. Also, during recent years, and after the regaining of independence, we have centered our efforts and our potential, as well as the militancy of the masses, on the basic goal of liquidating the after-effects of economic and social underdevelopment we inherited from British colonialism.... This has led to some revolutionary transformations in this area.

We can say in particular that implementation of agrarian reform, nationalization of capitalist companies and institutions run by foreigners and the local comprador bourgeois as well, the creation of a state sector, a cooperative sector, and a mixed sector, have allowed us to mobilize our resources and use them for this economic development.

If it be true that Democratic Yemen does not abound in natural wealth, and that it has recourse to foreign assistance, it is no less true that the remarkable projects that have been achieved command respect.

Beyond this it is necessary to say that despite the plots and maneuvers of all kinds, and also the economic blockade, as well as direct and veiled pressure, we have been able to carry out plans for construction of dozens of factories, roads, complete agricultural projects and build hundreds of schools, hospitals, and health units.

All this is testimony to the path [we have] followed toward improving the living conditions of the citizens. The YSP has succeeded in orienting the people toward achieving the two economic development plans. In the same way as it continues to work toward realization of the second Five-Year Plan.

We can say that the investments in the second plan will make possible the bringing about of the best conditions for guaranteeing national economic advancement and the improvement of the social conditions of the people.... To bring such delicate missions to a successful end, our vanguard party, the enlightened guide of the people, is based on rigorously scientific planning. Just as it calls for the best possible utilization of local resources and also foreign assistance, which we consider an important factor in the execution of programs of economic development.

[Question] Forces hostile to the Yemeni revolution are presently inspiring a tendentious campaign in the press whose goal is to discredit and cast suspicion on the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union.

These press campaigns have even gone so far as to claim that in Yemen there exist serious divergences of opinion between the party and the state. What do you say to this?

[Answer] Imperialist-reactionary forces will never cease mounting such campaigns of denigration and lying insinuations against the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Yemeni and Soviet peoples, which was signed last October.

Just as these forces will never stop mounting similar campaigns against any country maintaining friendly and cooperative relations with the Soviet Union.

What is the true nature of those forces which are deeply hostile to moral principles and values, such as friendship, peace, and social progress, and which try by all [possible] means to prevent such relations from being established? World imperialism is trying, through tendentious and criminal scheming against the USSR and [against our] friendship with its people, to keep young nations, the newly independent countries, within the orbit of its strategy, in order to use them in the ferocious struggle it is waging against international socialism. Naturally we, in Democratic Yemen, are proud of the friendship which binds us to the Soviet people, for it rests on principles and a basis of equality, mutual respect, and non-exploitation. Just as it contributes to the establishment of peace in the world and aims for the well-being of our two peoples.

Yemeni-Soviet friendship is not a new thing. It is the continuation of the relations of friendship and cooperation already enshrined in the treaty signed between our two peoples in 1928. Isn't this a proof that our friendship has withstood the test of time with flying colors? Once again I would like to say that our friendship with the Soviet people cannot be shaken by slanderous campaigns nourished by imperialism. It is also a friendship which responds to the logic of the revolutionary age which is converging toward socialism, peace, and understanding between peoples. This same logic will eradicate the vestiges of phenomena we see every day: wars, colonialism, aggression, and exploitation. All these phenomena are faces of world imperialism, which never extends friendship except at the price of the subjection of the people.

The allegations from these forces as to divergencies between the state and the party need no response for the simple reason that in Democratic Yemen the party and the state cannot be in contradiction; rather, they are two inseparable aspects of the revolutionary work. It was in this spirit that the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Yemen and the Soviet Union was concluded, at the directive of our party and at the insistence of the president of the People's Superior Council."

[Question] The Socialist Party of Democratic Yemen reaffirms that the achievement of a united Yemen is one of the greatest and noblest objectives, intimately bound up with the interests and evolution of the Yemeni people. How is the work of the mixed commissions coming, and just how optimistic are you as to the future of unification? Also, are there obstacles which could retard the advent of the merger between Aden and San'a' into a united Yemeni state?

[Answer] Achievement of the democratic unification of Yemen remains the fundamental task, and one of the noblest for which our Yemeni socialist party and all Yemeni patriots work. For the prolongation of the state of division, and the dispersion of the capacities and potentialities of Yemen only delay the process of development of the Yemeni revolution.

Besides, the achievement of unity will provide our country with human and material possibilities of considerable size, permitting it to go forward on the road of social progress. However, the imperialist and

reactionary forces take a dim view of the unity of our peoples. Also, they are fomenting all kinds of plots to thwart such a design and maintain instability.

Nevertheless, despite the plots and scheming the two parts of Yemen are firmly determined to reach this unity. Their optimism about its future is great, for it answers to the logic of history and to the will of our Yemeni people. And despite the obstacles our enemies prepare and the plots they weave, they cannot indefinitely delay the advent of unity.

In this sense, the work of the unity commissions is going ahead and is well on the road to achieving their goals and overcoming the problems with which they are confronted.

This is being done in continual coordination with brother Col Ali Abdallah Salah, president of the Yemen Arab Republic.

The next visit that we will undertake to San'a', historic capital of the Yemeni people, will be the occasion for working out together the modalities of further coordination between the leadership of the two parties. Just as it will provide an opportunity to review the results of the work of the unity commissions as well as to pursue and complete pending work.

[Question] Imperialist-reactionary conspiracies are being hatched against the Arab nation both in the Arab East and the Maghreb. They are materialized in particular by the defeatist and capitulationist position of the Cairo regime in the Middle East and that of the puppet monarchist regime of the Maghreb. What do you think are the most effective methods for isolating and encircling these two regimes, especially in light of the growing strength of the firmness front and the positive results recorded at the Fifth Conference, especially with its recognition for the first time of the POLISARIO Front as the unique legitimate representative of the Saharan people?

[Answer] Never since the onset of the Arab nation's struggle for liberation has it encountered a situation as dangerous as the one through which it is passing today.... In reality, both in the Arab East and in the Maghreb, world imperialism, and more especially U.S. imperialism, is conspiring overtly against the Arab peoples and attacking their dignity.... Plundering her wealth, the income from which it invests to the benefit of the Zionist enemy. This same money is used to break the Arab liberation movements. What could be more shameful and more grievous for the Arabs than that imperialism should receive the support, the blessings, and the encouragement of reactionary Arab powers such as the regimes in place in Cairo and Oman?

Some of these reactionary forces in collusion with the American imperialist policy are maintaining a total silence about its hostile policy toward our Arab nation.

These puppet governments refrain from denouncing all these plots being concocted, but rather loudly proclaim the friendship which ties them to the imperialist forces, even though U.S. imperialism be Israel's unconditional ally.

In our opinion, too, there is no other way to bring down the Camp David accords than to strengthen inter-Arab, anti-imperialist, and anti-reactionary solidarity.

Nevertheless, from the standpoint of opposition to the Camp David plan we see the urgent need to undertake practical steps translating words, decisions, resolutions [into action] in such a way as to put an end to the cherished designs of the Camp David accords.

[Question] If the member countries of the Steadfastness and Resistance Front have thrown all their forces into the evolutionary battle, energetically fighting the illicit Camp David accords and the Zionist enemy, the remaining Arab countries, by contrast, continue to adopt an overly moderate position. What role do you think these countries should play, and more precisely those that have a political and economic weapon such as oil?

[Answer] The parties present at the Camp David summit are carrying out their plan. And it is our duty, in the framework of Arab solidarity and the Steadfastness and Resistance Front, to answer these attacks forcefully. To do that we must make use of all our weapons, which are numerous and decisive, and in the first place the oil weapon and Arab assets in the imperialist banks. Beyond that we must use our relations with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries as a strategic weapon.

[Question] On the pretext of watching out for peace and stability in the region, the American fleet is cruising off the Arab Gulf and in the Indian Ocean. This constitutes a threat to the Yemeni revolution, especially in light of Oman's agreement to provide the United States full military presence in the region? Also, what is the capability of the Yemeni people's defense in the event of a foreign attack against our country?

[Answer] Their allegations are well-known and unfounded. The presence of the American fleet in the Arab Gulf and the Indian Ocean threatens the security, stability, and sovereignty of the peoples of all the region. So of course it directly threatens the Yemeni revolution. Also, one should say that those who are already placing bets on the future development of Democratic Yemen and are predicting less of a future for it, or who are still placing their hopes on the American military presence, are only ensnaring themselves in illusion. For Democratic Yemen has the capacity to defend itself and has the means necessary to protect the inviolability of its borders and to safeguard its sovereignty, as also it will not be alone should it be exposed to eventual foreign aggression.

All supporters of justice, peace, and sovereignty will rise up with it. It is also of interest to all the countries bordering on the [Gulf and the Indian] ocean that peace and stability should prevail in this region, and that there should be a stop to the establishment of military bases and the provision of military facilities as the regime in power in Oman is doing. This is the kind of thing that further complicates things and could plunge the region into the orbit of conflicts, crises, and tensions that threaten world peace. Besides, American imperialism is saying for all who are willing to listen that the Soviet Union is trying to bring the region into its sphere of influence and that it has designs on its oil. These are nothing but chimeras and false charges, a record that has been played over a thousand times.

Nevertheless, the peoples of the region are aware that the USSR is the richest nation in the world in terms of oil resources, and because of this fact it has no pretensions of this kind.

From another angle, the U.S.A., which consumes enormous quantities of this resource obtained from our region, is working to maintain its military presence, thus threatening the national independence of the peoples of the region.

[Question] Yemen is committed to certain principles such as supporting national liberation movements. In connection with this, what aid do you give to Arab liberation movements, on the one hand, and to other liberation movements around the world, on the other?

[Answer] This is a position of principle which characterizes our revolution. We are in favor of the legitimate struggle of peoples who are aspiring toward their national independence. As you know, our people lived through the horrors of colonization and the plundering of our liberty. When they committed themselves to the path of struggle for recovery of their independence, they enjoyed the sympathy of revolutionary forces around the world, as well as their support. Thus it is natural that our people, who have acquired their liberty, stand today shoulder to shoulder with the national liberation movements which are struggling to free their peoples from the colonial yoke and imperialist domination. Thus, we stood resolutely at the side of the Vietnamese people attacked by American imperialism. Just as we supported the peoples of Southeast Asia, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, and Iran...

We will continue to give our support to the Saharan people under the direction of the POLISARIO Front and to the people of OMAN under the leadership of the popular front (PFLO). We are also giving all possible aid to the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO. Naturally our aid to national liberation movements is in proportion to our means, for we are a small country with modest resources."

[Question] Based on the party organizational experience of Democratic Yemen, what is the place of the party and its role in the economic,

social, and political life of the country? And how solid are the relations linking the Yemeni Socialist Party to the FLN Party in Algeria? Also what are the prospects for improvement and strengthening of these relations?

[Answer] We have had a very rich and continuous experience. It was begun at the time when we undertook the organization of the people's vanguard forces to enter the struggle against the occupying power.

After independence and more precisely after 22 June, 1969, we worked to improve our partisan movement. Organization on a production sector basis replaced organization on a geographic basis. And we created the college of scientific socialism in order to be able to recycle and educate militants in accordance with the ideas and the principles of the theory of scientific socialism. At the same time, the various branches of the national movement launched the debate on the rigidity of political organization. This enterprise was crowned with success at the Unification Congress of October 1975. This was a step forward toward the establishment of a vanguard party. In October 1978, the first party congress went into session, declaring the birth of the YSP. We can say that the YSP truly constitutes a fighting vanguard actualizing the people's struggle for social progress.

The YSP's role is becoming larger and larger, in its leadership functions, in the ranks of the workers and of the laboring masses. It defines the directions and the axes of economic and social development. In the light of the latter, the YSP guides the people toward the concretization of its policy to promote better life, both materially and spiritually.

Our party is working to consolidate its ties with revolutionary parties, both in the Arab and outside world. In this connection, relations between YSP (Yemen) and FLN (Algeria) have been made even closer, through the exchange of delegations. Which led to the acquisition of experience for both sides concerning the organization of the party in the two fraternal countries. There are far-reaching prospects for these ties, and we are convinced that we are going forward in this direction, for our two parties are the bearers of revolutionary and progressive values, and are shoulder to shoulder in the anti-imperialist and anti-reactionary struggle, and they are militating for social progress and socialism.

[Question] Mister President, you recently paid visits to several fraternal and friendly countries. What have you learned and what positive results have you brought back from your trip? What are the benefits for the two parties of these respective visits?

[Answer] I recently visited Syria and the Soviet Union. In Syria we had fruitful discussions with our brother President Hafez al-Assad. They resulted in further deepening the friendly and fraternal relations between the Syrian and Yemeni peoples and made possible the delineation of a plan for common action within the Firmness Front so as to increase the effectiveness of the front and to strengthen Arab solidarity in

opposition to the Camp David plan and the conspiracies hatched by American imperialism and in the confrontation with the Zionist occupying power.

In the Soviet Union the discussions we had with Comrade Brezhnev and all the Soviet leaders took place in an atmosphere of sincere friendship.

They covered all the questions of common and general interest. These discussions were crowned with immense success. We can say, further, that this visit enabled friendly Soviet-Arab relations to become even closer. Just as it enlarged the field of cooperation between the Yemeni and Soviet peoples.

The aid which the latter will bring to our country, in accordance with the new agreements, and which will permit the Yemeni economy to make a fresh start on new basis, is testimony to the friendship which exists between our two peoples and two countries.

[Question] Certain newspapers in Beirut and the Gulf have spread the news that certain changes are imminent in the leadership of the party and the government. How much credence can one give these stories? If it is true, how do you explain these changes?

[Answer] In truth this is nothing but deceitful information exuded by sources known for their hostility to the Yemeni revolution. They are without foundation. What has been written on the subject of the supposed intention of the party to effect certain changes in the leadership posts is absolutely false. Moreover, there would be no justification for such a move. At any rate we understand the motives of this publicity hostile to our country. Their designs are clear...to deceive public opinion, both in the Arab world and internationally, by making them believe that instability reigns in our country.

Let me tell you that the news published by this insinuating press does not interest us anymore. For we are sure we are on the right road, and the confidence our people place in us is enough. All attempts at political sabotage and all the hostility of this press only reinforces our conviction and our vigilance.

[Question] What are the implications of the visit that President Chadli Bendjedid recently made to the PDRY on the fraternal relations existing between the two countries? Also, are you yourself contemplating a visit to Algeria soon?

[Question] President Chadli Bendjedid's visit is a revealing sign of the improvement of Yemeni-Algerian bilateral relations. Just as it was an opportunity for our two governments to study a certain number of questions of common interest. We came to an understanding on several important points such as strengthening the effectiveness of the Standfastness and Resistance Front and the reconsolidation of the unity of progressive Arab regimes, in order that they can play a more preponderant role in support of Arab liberation movements and most especially the

Palestinian revolution, in order to permit the national liberation movements and the progressive Arab forces better to meet the imperialist-Zionist and reactionary conspiracies. We also reached agreement on the question of development and extension of the field of cooperation bilaterally between Yemen and Algeria.

The fruitful results of the visit of our brother President Chadli Bendjedid underline the importance of exchanges of visits and meetings between our two political leaderships. For, in face of the constant scheming of reactionary forces, it is imperative to strengthen the unity of national and progressive Arab forces. I must express here my relief and my serinite [translation unknown] at the positive results which marked the visit of our brother President Chadli Bendjedid. Here in Democratic Yemen we consider Algeria as the dearest and surest friend. As we stand fast in the consolidation of our relations with the fraternal Algerian people. Because of this it is with great joy that I will pay a visit to Algeria.

[Question] Mr President, what message do you send to the Algerian people by means of our publication?

[Answer] I am pleased to transmit by means of your publication my highest militant salutations to the fraternal Algerian people and to the National Liberation Front Party of Algeria, on behalf of our people and of the Yemeni Socialist Party. Similarly, we express to them our deep confidence in the strengthening of the ties of shared militancy between the two progressive revolutions concretized by the two revolutions [sic]. These ties will also be strengthened by virtue of our joint fighting solidarity in the path of militancy to promote liberation and social progress, by our firmness in opposition to the conspiracies and schemes of imperialist and reactionary forces.

The history of relations between our two revolutions clearly testifies to positions of support and joint solidarity with respect to questions of revolutionary progress in our two fraternal countries in particular, and with respect to all questions of national independence, social progress, and peace in the world, in general.

In light of this history, the process of martial relations between democratic Yemen and the Algerian Democratic Peoples Republic will move forward and affect every domain of cooperation and exchange of experiences. Toward more radiant horizons and still greater prospects. We respect Algeria greatly for the grandiose sacrifices its people paid to obtain its national independence. We also believe that the people who sacrificed more than a million chauhada [translation unknown] for their national independence can become masters of their own destiny and realize their national progressive aspirations.

RECONCILIATION EFFORTS AMONG PERSIAN GULF NATIONS REVIEWED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13 Jul 80 pp 17-18

[Article by Kuwait correspondent: "Aden Seeks To Settle its Differences"]

[Text] There have been a lot of mediation attempts to reconcile Aden with its neighbors. Kuwait has taken action. Saudi Arabia has given it its blessing. And the trip of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad al-Hasani [Chairman of the PDRY council of ministers], may crown these initiatives with success. But there remains the problem between Aden and Baghdad. The process of bringing about a settlement of the differences between the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) and the Sultanate of Oman has already begun. It was Kuwait which took the initiative to bring about a reconciliation between the two Yemens. Kuwait then focused its mediation efforts on Aden and Muscat, in an attempt to bring about stability in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula.

When 'Ali Nasir Muhammad took over as prime minister in Aden, the very first initiative actually came from Aden, when it sent Mr Mahmud Najashi, the PDRY minister of culture, to Kuwait on a mission which was said to be related to cultural affairs. In fact, the mission was of a political nature, even though the media said nothing about its being political.

In addition to his 3 days of meetings with the Kuwaiti undersecretary of information, Mr Sa'dun al-Jasin, Mr Najashi met with the ruler of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah; the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah; and the deputy prime minister and minister of information, Shaykh Jabir al-'Ali al-Salim al-Sabah. During these meetings he made preparations for the visit of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to Kuwait.

Nasir Muhammad took action concerning the Gulf area when he paid his first visit to Saudi Arabia last Saturday. This was a visit which had been previously set, but had been postponed because of Mr Muhammad's sudden trip to Moscow. He made this trip to reassure the Soviets that

the changes which had resulted in the resignation of the previous prime minister, Mr 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, would not affect relations between Southern Yemen and the Soviet Union. After Mr Muhammad visited Saudi Arabia, he visited Kuwait.

Dialog on Two Fronts

The PDRY minister of culture did not release any comments to the press during his visit in Kuwait. But during his private talks, he hinted that the PDRY government was prepared to reopen a dialog on two fronts--with Iraq and with Oman. Regarding relations with Iraq, he said that it would be possible to normalize them through talks between the officials of the two countries. He said that there would have to be an end to the difficulties which were caused by the circumstances of the assassination [of an Iraqi lecturer at Aden University in 1979], and the subsequent arrest of Yemeni Ba'thist elements in Aden and of PDRY citizens in Iraq.

Concerning the Sultanate of Oman, Najashi said that democratic Yemen would welcome a resumption of "fraternal" relations between the two countries. But he said that this would have to be on condition that each of the two countries should not interfere in the affairs of the other, and that the sultanate should not be bound by any treaty or defense agreement with the United States. Asked about the facilities which the PDRY regime was granting to the Soviet fleet, he denied that this was being done, saying that the only thing which bound Aden to Moscow was a treaty of friendship. He refused to admit that any bases or military facilities had been granted to the Soviets in connection with this treaty.

The Sultanate Is neither Fish nor Fowl

Oman, for its part, still has not revealed the true nature of the security agreement which it has concluded with Washington. Qays al-Zawawi, the minister of state for foreign affairs, keeps talking in his statements about coordinating the sultanate's foreign policy with the policy which is followed by the other Gulf countries.

According to information relayed by diplomats from Muscat, the sultanate insists on having consultations with the other Gulf countries before making any decisions concerning matters which affect issues of security and defense. This is because the sultanate feels that the countries of the area are a unit, and that whatever affects one of the countries of the area will affect all of the area's other countries.

But diplomats are met with silence when they ask about the nature of the defense agreement [with the United States], and the extent to which it is consistent with the general policy of the Gulf countries which rejects foreign troops and rejects the policy of alliances. These

diplomats are told that the agreement is merely an "aid agreement," which is more economic and financial than it is political or military.

Authoritative sources in the Gulf states expect that it is Saudi Arabia itself which will give the green light to pursue success of the mediation efforts. If Saudi Arabia reaches even a minimum of mutual understanding with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, this will signal the start of Kuwaiti mediation, which was temporarily at a standstill, but consequently took on new dimensions when it was expanded to include relations between Southern Yemen and Iraq. The fact is that Saudi Arabian and Southern Yemeni officials are setting conditions and counter-conditions for the achievement of a "minimum" of mutual understanding. The Southern Yemenis are concerned that there should be no interference in their internal affairs or politics, and they want to be free to choose the type of regime they want. At the same time, they would pledge to try not to export their "ideas or revolutionary ideology" to places outside their borders, on condition that no one should provoke them or "conspire" against them.

Another of their demands is that they should share in the oil wealth. They want to do this by means of implementing development projects and building schools and hospitals. They do not want aid to them to be in the form of goods, that is, "cash." Furthermore, they say that they are able to coexist with any type of regime next door to them, on condition that this regime would not provoke them. They, in turn, would not provoke that regime.

Neutralization, Not Threats

This is all that the Saudis are asking for. They also have certain reservations. One of these reservations is the fact that Aden signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation with Moscow, and subsequently signed a similar treaty with the Marxist regime in Ethiopia.

Informed sources in the Gulf area say that Saudi Arabia perhaps felt that these two treaties were concluded in a state of emergency which would pass. But they say that Saudi Arabia's reservations are based on its fear that the treaty with Moscow will be used to give the Soviets--some reports say that the Soviets have already been given--naval and air bases in Socotra, Makassar and other places. It may be that Saudi Arabia is not too concerned about such a military presence when it is far away, but Saudi Arabia cannot afford to feel this way when the military presence is right on its borders, threatens its security and, consequently, threatens its oil resources.

For this reason, Saudi Arabia makes the condition that any foreign military presence in the area be eliminated, be it a Soviet or American military presence. Saudi Arabia consequently desires to have the area neutralized, and this includes both Southern Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman. Saudi Arabia wants the former to undo its bonds with the Soviet Union, and wants the latter to do the same with the United States.

Saudi Arabia also has reservations about the considerable presence of Soviet, East German and Cuban military advisers in Northern Yemen, who consequently pose a constant threat from Aden to the Sultanate of Oman.

In the opinion of Saudi Arabia, if it is necessary to have the sultanate return to the ranks of the Arabs and have it commit itself to the decisions made by the Arab summit conference, it is also necessary to stop threatening the sultanate. This is because threats will only drive it farther away and will impel it to search for means of providing itself with security, even if it has to cooperate with the United States.

Diplomatic sources in the Arabian Gulf area are of the opinion that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad will not be inflexible in his talks with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They feel this way, particularly because he is known for his flexibility. In addition, he believes in an open-minded policy and a policy of coexistence, at the same time adhering to principles which he considers to concern himself and the Yemeni people.

These sources also say that the new regime in Aden does not want a protracted discussion of its ideological convictions. Rather, it is prepared to search for a way to work together with its "fellow-Arabs" in the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea areas.

Iraq Has no Objections

If a solution can be found for the problem between Aden and Riyadh, and for the problem between Aden and Muscat, there still remains the problem between Aden and Baghdad.

According to information from responsible sources in the Gulf area, Aden and Baghdad are not in a hurry to solve this problem and settle the issues which mainly developed during the days when 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il was prime minister.

Saudi Arabia does not want to have anything to do with the problem between Southern Yemen and Iraq, and neither does Kuwait. Informed sources in Kuwait consider that this problem may be solved by a Yemeni initiative, which they think has already been started by the prime minister of Northern Yemen, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. They especially feel this way, because relations are very close between San'a' and Baghdad, and because relations between San'a' and Aden were strengthened after 'Ali Nasir Muhammad became prime minister.

San'a' receives a great deal of financial aid from Baghdad, and Baghdad is implementing a number of development projects for San'a'. For this reason, San'a' did not want to approach Aden, because this would cause Iraq to ask a lot of questions. This is why San'a', after the change in regime in Aden, has sent a number of envoys to Baghdad and to the capital cities of the other countries of the Arabian Gulf area. Informed sources in Kuwait say that Northern Yemeni mediation between Aden and Baghdad is already proceeding along a sure path, but they say that the fruits of this mediation will not be seen before Aden reaches final reconciliation with Riyadh and Muscat.

RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN EXAMINED

Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 29 Jul 80 p 2

[Editorial: "The Resumption of Saudi-British Relations"]

[Text] The resumption of normal relations between the kingdom and Great Britain confirms the desire of both parties to stay on the path of cooperation in support of efforts being exerted at present to bring about peace in the Arab region and to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem. The crisis which occurred in Saudi-British relations convinces all of us that the best way to maintain friendly relations is to steer them away from anything which offends the national values, ideals and feelings of the two nations, and, in particular, to eliminate once and for all the sources of tension in these relations, so that they do not recur in the future.

In its relations and dealings with all nations of the world, the kingdom always seeks mutual respect and avoidance of everything which offends the customs, values and ideals of these nations. It thus expects similar treatment from other nations.

We have been candid in expressing our feelings about the affronts made to our Islamic religion and to the values and ideals of our country, thereby causing a deterioration in diplomatic relations between our two countries.

We certainly appreciate the British government's recent positions regarding the Arab-Zionist struggle. They are positions which Prime Minister Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington have expressed on more than one occasion, confirming support of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, and condemning the expansionist and terrorist acts being carried out by the Zionist authorities in the occupied Arab territories, including the establishment of new settlements and the policies of Judaization. They are positions which have subjected Lord Carrington to a stream of cheap attacks launched against him by Menachim Begin, the enemy's prime minister.

However, this does not mean that Great Britain as a great power has fulfilled its duty with respect to solving the Palestinian problem. We believe that words of condemnation and sharp criticism are not what is required. "Political history" is full of these statements. What is important is their translation into the realm of practical application. Great Britain is the one most responsible for the creation of the Palestinian problem. Consequently, it bears great responsibility to search for and participate effectively in finding a just solution for it, just as it succeeded in finding a solution for the Rhodesian problem, through the skill of Lord Carrington and his unprecedented efforts in this domain.

There are many opportunities for British participation in a solution. The most prominent of these include withdrawing British support for the Camp David agreements condemned by the Arab nations, contributing toward a push for a real European initiative for peace in the region, exerting effective pressure on the Zionist entity, and recognizing both the PLO and the right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state on their national land.

If the British government has made progress on this road, we hope it will continue to do so, for this serves its interests, above all, as well as peace and stability in the region.

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DANES WIN DESIGN CONTRACT FOR CIVIL DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 10 Aug 80 p 5

[Article by Martin Hartung: "Danish Design for Large Arabian Building Complex"]

[Text] A large building complex is to be built in Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia, as designed by Danish architects. The complex is to house the headquarters of the country's civil defense.

The size of the project is apparent from the fact that the floor area of the complex will amount to 57,000 square meters, which for comparison is over 60 percent larger than the foreign ministry's new office blocks at Asiatisk Plads near Knippelsbro in Copenhagen.

This was a very demanding and complicated design task, all the more so because the structure is to house, in addition to a command center and offices, a housing wing for the personnel and a school for recruits, an indoor swimming pool, and a mosque. The design was prepared by a group of technicians consisting of Candane (the engineering firms of B. Hojlund Rasmussen, N. H. Harms, and Geotechnical Institute), as well as the engineering firm of Crone & Rock and the architectural firm of Holm & Grut.

The group was assigned the task in competition with half a dozen large firms of various Western countries.

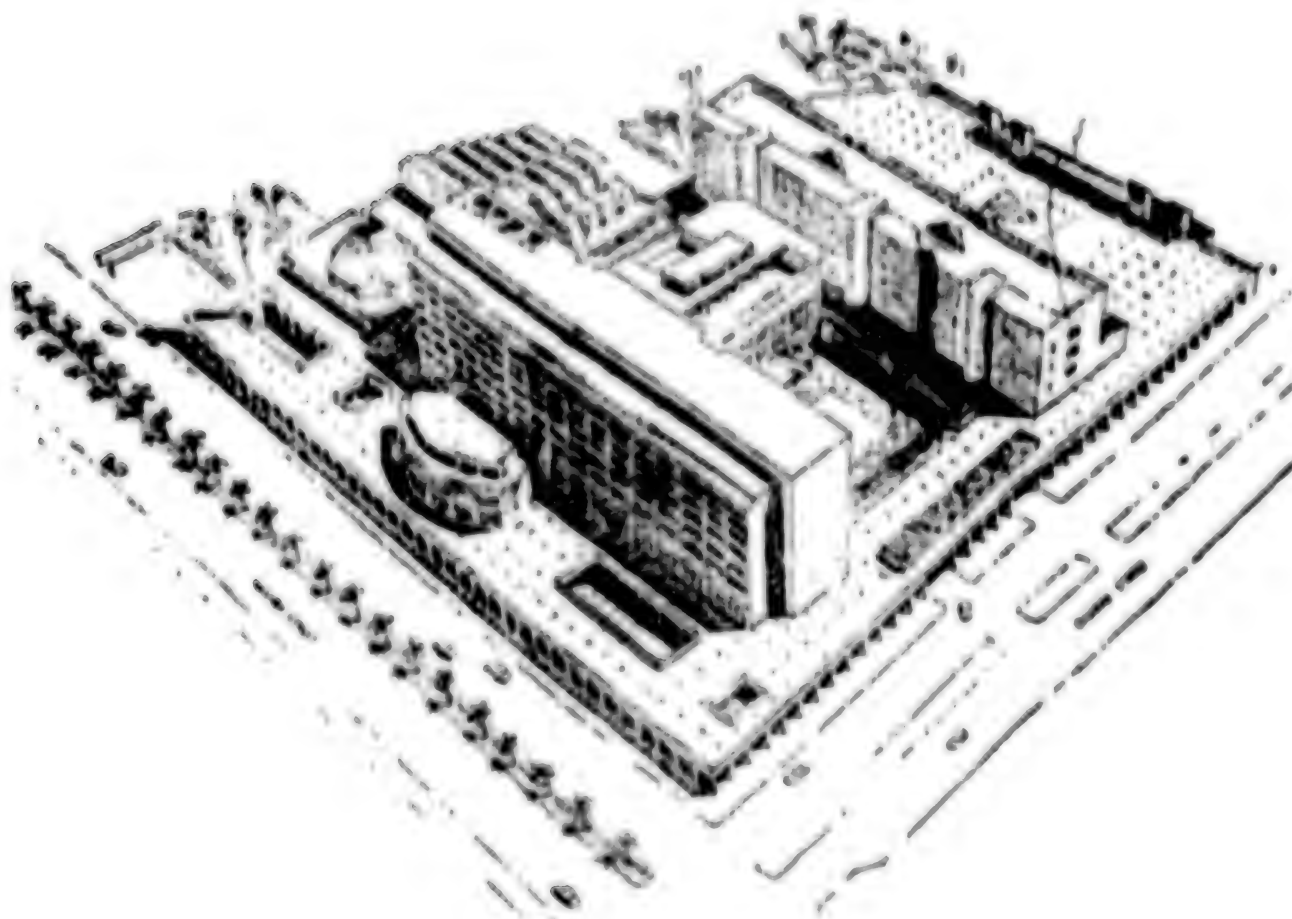
The Arabs preferred the Danish design because, among other things, it was worked out in consultation with the Danish civil defense administration and thereby provided a better solution than the Arabs had in fact asked for.

About 60 technicians of the involved engineering and architectural firms were employed in the design work, which according to the contract was to be done within a time limit and at a firm price.

The design has just been delivered to and approved by the Arab authorities, and it is now to be submitted for enterprise bids. The bid material submitted by the Danish group consists of about 900 drawings and about 3000 pages of specifications and material amounts, figures that give an impression of the size of the project.

In shaping the project's forms and materials, designs and installations the Danes made efforts to reduce the demand for maintenance to the extent possible. For example, facades are to be in cast concrete of a smooth, sand-colored surface.

In the design the Danes strived to produce a building complex which to the smallest detail will conform to the Arabian way of life. They did, however, refrain from any attempt to create Islamic architecture. It will be a simple and robust and to some degree also a monumental structure.



Perspective drawing of the design for the headquarters of Saudi Arabia's civil defense, prepared by a group of Danish engineers and architects. The structure is to be built on a concrete deck at the first floor level above the terrain. On the deck there will be, among other things a well shaped courtyard in front of the office wing (in the middle of the complex.) Below the deck there will be a parking garage. On the deck there will be gardens and a helicopter landing pad. Below the deck there will be a bomb-proof command center and bomb shelters.

SAUDI ANTICRIME WORKING PAPER SUBMITTED TO ARAB CONFERENCE

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 30 Jul 80 p 1

[Article by Tal'at Waqai: "Kingdom Submits Working Paper to Conference of Arab Interior Ministers"]

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of interior, has told AL-RIYAD that the kingdom has submitted a working paper to the conference of Arab interior ministers scheduled to be held in Ta'if on 15 Shawwal (27 August). AL-RIYAD has learned that the most important feature of the Saudi working paper is a field study of security problems in Arab countries.

The interior minister said that the kingdom, in its capacity as host nation, has joined the Social Defense Organization in writing the agenda for the conference. He added that consultations are under way with Arab interior ministers to learn their opinions about the proposals which have been submitted. Many answers have been received approving the agenda.

AL-RIYAD has learned, moreover, that the agenda of the conference consists of several points, including security problems in Arab countries and their present challenges, the drafting of a preventive security plan and the development of the conference of Arab interior ministers into a permanent ministerial conference. The agenda of the conference also includes choosing the place and time of the fourth meeting, in addition to appointing the secretary general of the Arab Social Defense Organization.

Dr Faruq Murad, director of the Anti-Crime Center of the interior ministry, told AL-RIYAD that the most important feature of the Saudi working paper at the conference is a field study of security problems in Arab countries. The study was undertaken by the Anti-Crime Center of the interior ministry. It sent investigators to all Arab countries with a questionnaire prepared in advance.

Through the use of qualified investigators and on the basis of information produced through the study, this working paper set forth the first preventive security plan. It is hoped that joint Arab cooperation in security matters will crystallize around the plan over the next 3 years, which is the period of the plan.

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BRIEFS

WATER PROJECTS--The Water and Sewage Authority of the Eastern Province has recently undertaken the drilling of eight artesian wells and has built the necessary reservoirs and pumps in both al-Dammam and al-Khabar. 'Abdullah Muhammad al-Babatayn, deputy director of the authority, has said that five artesian wells have also been dug in various districts in al-Dammam and al-Khabar, plus three wells in al-'Aqrabiyah and al-Thiqbah. Reservoirs with a capacity of 40 cubic meters have been built for them. He also said that a study has been completed for a project to drill seven artesian wells, with their reservoirs and pumps, in populated areas. The study includes an extension project in al-Dammam and al-Khabar and a well project. The authority is also trying to distribute water in tank trucks to those who are not served by the public water system. [Text] [Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 6 Aug 80 p 3] 7811

HEALTH PROGRAM--The Minister of Health, Dr Husayn al-Jaza'iri, is scheduled in the near future to establish the work program of clinics and hospitals in the western region during this year's pilgrimage season, according to Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Abbar, assistant director general of Health Affairs in the western region. He added that Health Affairs in the region has set up this program which includes the preparation of hospitals in general and those in the area of the shrines of the pilgrimage ceremonies, in particular, plus the preparation of clinics on the al-Madinah road, in order to get ready to receive pilgrims. The minister of health is scheduled to decide on this program very soon. The program also includes the numbers and names of workers during the season. It is worth pointing out that some of the staff of the King 'Abdul 'Aziz University Hospital in Jiddah is expected to participate side by side with Health Affairs in its work during the pilgrimage season, in accordance with the agreement concluded between the two parties. Dr Abbar hoped that the program would ultimately succeed in achieving the goal sought by the ministry and desired by Health Minister Dr Husayn al-Jaza'iri. He confirmed that the program will be set up by the minister before the end of the current month of Ramadhan. [Text] [Jiddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 29 Jul 80 p 3] 7811

AIRPORT NETWORK--A number of airports have either been opened or will be opened in Saudi Arabia during the latter part of this year. The new

Ha'il airport was recently opened at a cost of 109 million riyals. It includes a main building covering 2,270 square meters, a VIP lounge furnished with a private wing for royalty, an arrival lounge accommodating 600 passengers per hour and a departure lounge accommodating 240 passengers per hour. Thus the arrival lounge is capable of receiving 3 Boeing-727's per hour, and the departure lounge can send off 2 of the same type of aircraft per hour. The runway is 3,200 meters long and 45 meters wide. There is an access 22 meters wide parallel to the runway. The space for aircraft parking is 25 meters by 225 meters and accommodates 4 Boeing-727's at one time. Saudi Arabian Airlines recently began the first trial flight to Muhassin airport in al-Ihsa' on Miakar-28 aircraft which hold 65 passengers. Then the new airport was opened with regular official flights averaging three flights daily and serving the route of al-Hufuf--al-Riyadh--Dhahran--Jiddah--al-Riyadh--Dhahran--Jiddah and vice-versa. Limited tests of aircraft will begin this month at King 'Abd 'Aziz International Airport in Jiddah in preparation for its official opening at the end of this year. The Budnah airport recently opened, and following this month of Ramadhan, the airports of Najran, Jayzan, Bishih and al-Wujih will open officially. These airports have been furnished with modern and advanced equipment in the fields of aviation, control and international air safety. In its budget for this year, the Civil Aviation board authorized the selection of a site for construction of a civilian airport in al-Hufuf in the central district. A team of engineers and experts has been commissioned to select the site of the new airport. It is worth pointing out that the estimated cost of the new airport is more than 250 million riyals. Saudi Civil Aviation president Shaykh Nasir al-'Asaf says that a network of modern and advanced airports will be built in the kingdom by the end of the current plan. [Text] [Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 30 Jul 80 p 8] 7811

FERTILIZER PLANT--A new fertilizer plant will be built in Jubayl District in Saudi Arabia. Work on its facilities is expected to begin in early November, and production will begin by the end of 1982. The Royal Commission of the Jubayl and Yanba' project has recently signed an agreement to rent land for the plant which will produce urea fertilizer. Annual production capacity will be 500,000 tons for both local consumption and export abroad. The plant will be built on a plot of 487,200 square meters. It may be pointed out here that the Royal Commission made preliminary preparations of the land designated for the plant, and the Jubayl Fertilizer Company completed the ground surveys. The site will be supplied with electricity, water, a sewage system and communications, in addition to the sea water necessary for cooling. [Text] [Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 30 Jul 80 p 8] 7811

WATER PIPELINE--Saudi Arabia has allocated 9910 million for a huge project which aims at supplying Riyadh with water by laying a pipeline between the Gulf coast and the Saudi capital. Several German, Dutch, French and American companies will execute this contract. It is the final stage of the tremendous project to assure the water requirements

of Riyadh during the 1980's. The contract was awarded through the Saudi government Salt Water Conversion Organization. Last year it awarded a contract to built 10 desalinization units at the port of Jubayl. Japanese and Italian companies are currently supplying the pipes. The project consists of 2 pipelines, each 1.5 meters in diameter and 466 kilometers long, in order to supply 839,000 cubic meters of water, in addition to 6 pumping stations along the pipelines. [Text] (Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 30 Jul 80 p 8) 7811

CSO: 4802

AL-SADIQ AL-MAHDI DISCUSSES NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 9 Jul 80 pp 15, 12

[Interview with Sudanese opposition leader al-Sadiq al-Mahdi by Babakr Hasan Makki in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] Al-Mahdi tells AL-SIYASAH:

"We Want Alternative That Avoids Pre-May and Post-May Mistakes.

"Elements Inside Regime Worked to Foil National Reconciliation.

"Al-Sharif al-Hindi Asked Sudanese Ambassador in Tripoli to Negotiate With Him But Khartoum Refused.

"Biggest Accomplishment of Palestinian Revolution Is That It Transferred Battle to West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Arabs Must Put United States Before One of Two Options: Relationship With Arabs or With Israel."

Before my interview with al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the popular Khartoum was talking about a diplomatic flap that almost erupted between Sudan and Nigeria when Nigeria gave al-Mahdi an official reception even though he has no official status other than being a former Sudanese prime minister, chairman of the banned National [al-ummah] Party, former chairman of the opposition National Front, former member of the Socialist Union's Political Bureau, the grandson of Muhammad Ahmad al-Mahdi, the leader of the biggest revolution in the Arab area, and, finally, the quiet opposition man who uses Khartoum as the base of his opposition. The popular Khartoum said that the Nigerian president had received al-Mahdi only hours before convocation of the African economic summit conference and that this motivated Muhammad Mirghani, the minister of state for foreign affairs, to criticize this act on the part of the Nigerian government. Even though al-Sadiq al-Mahdi denied that the issue was so clamorous when I asked him about it and was content to say only that he had met with the Nigerian president without any official reception--despite

this, this input was one of many which had aroused my interest in interviewing al-Sadiq. The external opposition considers the man a participant in the regime whereas the official Khartoum considers him an opponent.

Al-Sadiq still lives in Halah, Aba Island, where his house abounds with members of al-Ansar, some lying on the green grass, some eating the hot 'asidah [paste made of flour and butter] for breakfast and some coming from the west for greetings and "congratulation." Amidst all this, al-Sadiq secluded himself in his office which overflows with volumes and books, with a picture of William (Deng), al-Mahdi's late friend, placed in the middle.

[Question] The public street is wondering about your real position toward the regime. Some say that you have joined the regime whereas others say that you have broken your agreement with Numayri?

[Answer] Our position toward the present regime in Sudan, says al-Sadiq, is based on the fact that we were in conflict and dispute and that then came a stage during which the regime offered the national reconciliation. As a front comprised of the various parties and leaderships, our opinion was to respond to the reconciliation on the grounds that it would establish a system of concord in Sudan through understanding between the regime and its opponents. The bases--seven altogether--for this system of concord were laid down and the most important was the principle that the current political system--the Sudanese Socialist Union--has failed to be a democratic system in the country. Therefore, al-Mahdi adds, this issue had to be reexamined, not for the sake of a return to the system of parties but for the sake of setting up a comprehensive political system in Sudan. This was the basis of the expected reform in the Sudanese political system. Nine points were defined for this political reform and were made public. There was the issue of the constitution because we held the belief that there was a need for reforms in a democratic and Islamic direction insofar as the country's constitution is concerned. The provisions required to be amended in this regard were laid out in detail. In any case, our demands dealt with fundamental changes in the political establishments and actions. Since then--the beginning of the reconciliation--we have been discussing the details of these matters. The starting point of these discussions has been the importance of normalizing the relations between yesterday's opponents so that a freer atmosphere of discussion may be created. This normalization did certainly require definite measures--such as putting a stop to the arrests and to the opening of jails, abolishing or freezing the state security law and the return of those present in camps abroad and providing them stability in modern cooperative associations. Generally, the normalization required the creation of an atmosphere in which the state of bitterness and conflict existing earlier would be eliminated. We believe that it has been possible in past periods to realize all the aspects of normalization and to bring back all the brothers who were in exile abroad and establish them in various projects. However, implementation of the fundamental changes required has not been realized for reasons. These reasons are connected with the presence in the regime of elements that have done all they can to resist the required changes in order to preserve their positions and out of fear of the democratic changes that may occur. As leaderships that have responded to the reconciliation, we find that as

long as there is in our country the freedom that enables us to say what is right and what is wrong and to call for correcting the wrong--and there is now greater freedom in our country than in many of the Arab and African countries--then this is enough to make us interested in the issue of reconciliation and in continuing the efforts to realize the remaining goals. I believe that under the free atmosphere currently present in Sudan, we have been able to talk objectively about the shortcomings and faults of the regime and to also talk maturely about the mistakes of the pre-May regime and to say how we want a situation that will not take the country back to the era preceding the 25th of May (1969). We have also been able to say that we do not want continuation of the current practices in the country but want to find an alternative that avoids the pre-May and post-May mistakes. We believe that this line is the best line for the interest of the country. This is why we are happy that it has been possible, through the path of reconciliation, to relatively exclude the foreign factors, elements and forces from interfering and playing a role in the Sudanese politics. This has been one of the accomplishments which has made it possible to turn the disagreement over the remaining issues into a purely Sudanese disagreement. This transformation protects the Sudanese political body from the incoming influences that could intensify if we return to the state of confrontation. Therefore, the state of confrontation is rejected, and so is surrender to the status quo and to the system in its present form because such surrender means continuation of the present mistakes and impotent policies and practices. Such continuation is against the country's interest. If it is against Sudan's interest to return to the policy of confrontation and if it is against Sudan's interest to capitulate to the conditions as they are at present, then it is logically in Sudan's interest to take advantage of the conditions of relative freedom to work with political means in order to realize the goals which, we believe, will lead to changes when achieved. As long as we can fault any of the regime's actions with freedom, then there is no justification for us or for others to work from abroad. The moderate opposition leader adds: In summary, we can describe our position as that of a group that has responded to the reconciliation on certain conditions. Some of the circumstances preparing the way and some of the accesses leading to these (conditions) have been realized but not all of the desired goals have been realized. I declared and explained in a press conference in July 1978 that all the things that will reunite the will of the Sudanese will be the fruit of the national reconciliation process.

Optimism

[Question] (Here I interrupted al-Mahdi to ask:) Does this mean that you are optimistic that all your goals will be realized someday?

[Answer] I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic. As long as the counter opinion has freedom and as long as the policy of violence and oppression is stopped, it is my opinion that it is the duty of the Sudanese citizen to work within this framework to realize the goals which he views as the outlet for his country. It is my opinion that there is no justification for the policy of confrontation except when freedom is undermined and confiscated and when a policy of violence and oppression is established. It is also my

opinion that is a part of the third world, our country does not have the opportunity and it is not right for it to adopt the policies and constitutional systems followed, for example, in West or East Europe. It must also not be said, for example, that we want a liberal democracy. It is also my opinion that any attempt to copy these policies exactly will have harmful consequences because even the systems followed in Europe have come as the result of certain political and social development that accompanied the conditions through which Europe has passed. Therefore, we are, as I have already said, in need of detente and of finding an equation with two sides: One side for unifying the administration and building the country and the other side for the freedom that provides the opportunity for participation, for bringing into account, for questioning and for correcting the mistakes. The challenge facing us is the challenge of enabling our political system to establish this equation for this generation satisfactorily. This is the lesson that we can derive from Islam because Islam has no single system of government. There isn't a certain system of government called Islam. Islam contains general principles--consultation, justice and so forth--and has the Shari'a. If we examine the Shari'a itself, we find that it contains provisions and these provisions were turned into laws by the jurisprudents--Abu Hanifah, Malik, al-Shafi'i and the Hanbal. These jurisprudents benefited from the intellectual and social background under which they lived to turn the provisions found in the book [Koran] and in the Sunna into laws by which the people abide. As long as we want to apply the Islamic Shari'a, we are required to know the provisions of the book and the Sunna and to understand them in the light of the intellectual and social life we are living today. The strongest point of Islam, says the son of al-Siddiq al-Mahdi, is that it has not committed mankind to a certain system of government but has left general principles. It is our duty to apply these principles at all times and everywhere through the channels and means befitting the conditions under which we live in the light of these facts. The present regime came up with interpretations, including the Socialist Union which it has adopted from Egypt, and established the present constitution. When we view this experiment from within, we find that it must be corrected in the light of the action and of the experience. When we view it from outside, we find that it must be corrected within the framework of the concepts within which the reform is sought. We have called for correction of the experiment. It is my belief that as long as we are working in an atmosphere of freedom, we cannot be annoyed. The problem arises when the government says: I follow one system of government and you are either with me or against me. This does not apply to the present policy, as I have already said, because there is a degree of tolerance and freedom which, in my belief, doesn't exist in many Arab and Islamic countries.

I Resigned From Political Bureau for These Reasons

[Question] After your return to Sudan, you entered the Socialist Union and took the oath as a member of the Political Bureau but gave up this position soon afterwards, either by resigning or by being relieved. How do you explain all this?

[Answer] When I entered the Socialist Union, I did so as the result of four points which were announced in the press conference to which I have already referred, namely:

1. Correcting, reorganizing and restructuring the Socialist Union.
2. Revising the provisions of the constitution to make it more democratic and more Islamic.
3. Resettling the groups of al-Ansar that were abroad.
4. Reviewing the entire current performance to bolster the positive and to drop the negative. Even though I had agreed on these points with President Numayri, there are elements in the Socialist Union who resisted this inclination strongly when they became aware of it. The question became more complex with the rise of the question: Where does Sudan stand vis-a-vis Camp David? We had thought that this position would be discussed in the Political Bureau which is the top political authority. But when I found that the decision concerning Sudan's policy toward Camp David had been adopted without a meeting of the Political Bureau, this provided the proof that this bureau does not perform the role it should perform in determining this country's policies. Therefore, my resignation was due to the fact that the measures that were expected to be taken regarding the four points had met resistance which led to freezing them. This matter was subject to give and take. But then came the straw that broke the camel's back in the form of the adoption of a decision on a serious matter without the participation of the authority concerned, namely the Political Bureau. Had the four points been realized and had the Political Bureau continued to exercise its jurisdiction as the highest political agency, I would not have had to resign.

This is al-Sharif al-Hindi

[Question] (I then asked al-Sadiq the question raised by the Sudanese man-in-the-street, saying:) You and al-Sharif al-Hindi were the two faces of the opposition coin. You have returned and al-Sharif has continued his opposition from abroad, accusing you of abandoning the struggle as a result of the temptation of some positions. What is your position toward al-Sharif al-Hindi and toward the accusation he has made against you?

[Answer] The truth is that brother Husayn al-Hindi was a member with us in the National Front. When the front adopted the reconciliation decision, it did so with a unanimous vote. He personally was present when the decision was taken. After I met with brother Numayri in July 1977, the front met on 14 July 1977 at the Brown Hotel in London. Al-Hindi was present at this meeting and (agreed) to all the results of this meeting. Afterwards, brother Husayn al-Hindi declared from London Radio [BBC] and from Tripoli Radio on 24 July 1977 his support for all that I had said. It was then decided that I would come to Sudan with all the front leaders to continue discussing the provisions contained in the reconciliation policy. Al-Hindi was supposed to return with us but he excused himself for health reasons. However, he did

see us off at the airport on 29 September 1977 and we agreed that he would stay abroad until I returned to him or write him on the outcome of what happens at home. He went in to assess the developments and he, because he had stayed behind, was to write President Numeiry to inform him of my delegation to conduct the negotiations at home. He was also to observe silence and not to make any comments until the two of us met. In fact, he did write a letter to President Numeiry which was published by DAR AL-AYYAN on 29 September 1977 in which he said that he supports the reconciliation policy and delegates me to conduct the negotiations. He observed silence for about a month and then began to express his opposition to the discussions without knowing what had taken place.

Partisan Jealousy

(In talking about al-Sharif al-Hindi, al-Sadiq adds) It is my opinion that he started the opposition not because he is opposed to the reconciliation policy but because he feels that the popular reception that I was given upon my return to Sudan brought me, in his opinion, a political gain and because the Arab and world information media showed interest in the reconciliation as a matter between me and President Numeiry, thus dropping [reference to] all other parties. These things aroused al-Hindi's partisan jealousy and this is why he did not fulfill what he had promised and why he started his well-known opposition. The proof of this is that when some men in the regime learned that I insist on certain measures for change and reform they thought of maneuvering within the partisan disagreement existing between me and brother Husayn al-Hindi and thus contacted him and concluded with him the 1978 London agreement. In that agreement, al-Hindi agreed to the constitution as it is and agreed to the Socialist Union as it is. All he demanded was the more careful application of the constitution and the re-formation of the Socialist Union. This agreement was broadcast and announced in London and signed by brother Husayn al-Hindi. This means that when he entered the reconciliation, he agreed to issues that I would not have accepted because they are not within the framework of the front's policy. However, when the brothers in the regime concentrated on the issue of "partisan jealousy," they found from his response to things that I was rejecting and thus showed that his aim was not rejection of the reconciliation. It later became evident that the London agreement itself was not for the purpose of reconciliation but for the purpose of threatening us. Since then, brother Husayn al-Hindi has moved to establish alliances with several partisan organizations in the Arab countries. However, he has not kept his promises to these parties--promises that he would stage revolutions in Sudan.

Al-Hindi Asked Sudanese Ambassador in Tripoli to Mediate for Reconciliation Bis With Regime

(Al-Sadiq adds) I later learned that during his presence in Libya, brother Husayn al-Hindi contacted the Sudanese ambassador in Tripoli--after contacting Mr al-Turayli--and asked to negotiate with the ambassador. However, the Sudanese ambassador asked Khartoum for the permission to do so but Khartoum refused to open negotiations with al-Hindi because it doesn't trust what he says and so the ambassador refused to meet with him. It is my opinion that

the policy which al-Hindi is following and which relies on getting aid from foreign countries that are usually hostile to Sudan, on his acting from abroad and on his sending weapons into the country is a completely wrong policy because it is an adventurous policy and because it has hurt his party's followers whereas he is safe abroad. He sends things that cause his followers at home to perpetrate security crimes and this has exposed all his party's cells to the Sudanese security agencies. Now most of his men are involved in security problems because of his adventurous policy. Another of the faults of al-Hindi's policy is that even if we assume that this policy succeeds, at best, in polarizing a certain country hostile to Sudan to support him, this success would give Sudan the justification to polarize another country. If this policy succeeds, it will, under the best assumption, turn Sudan into an arena of conflict among non-Sudanese forces operating in Sudan. What value does all this have when the Sudanese has the opportunity to say this is wrong and this is right? Sudan is currently alive with a free student movement. If you visit the universities, you will notice this. There is also a free labor movement, in the sense that labor elections took place this time without any arrests being made against any side, unlike in the past. It is true that there was intervention but no arrests were made among the rival leaderships. This policy, and within this degree of this freedom, is the policy in which I believe. I reject and condemn any policy that resorts to violence or to foreign aid as long as there is an opportunity for dialogue, difference and tolerance in Sudan for the realization of the popular demands. It is my belief that this adventurous policy (of al-Hindi's) will result in harm for all sides, regardless of whether it succeeds or fails. This is why it is a faulty and rejected policy. (Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi adds) This is why I have told and advised and continue to tell and advise brother al-Hindi--through my meetings with people who are connected with al-Hindi--that the mistake does not lie in whether we cooperate or we don't cooperate but in this adventurous course. It is my conviction that if al-Hindi abandons this course, there will be opportunity for national action in Sudan, and even for rejecting the reconciliation. Not all those who support me support the reconciliation. Many of them oppose it and believe that it is a faulty policy but only because they are confident that the reconciliation's goals will be realized. I have no objection to realizing the reconciliation's goals and I have no objection to whoever says that it is our duty to abandon the reconciliation policy.

I Have Not Collected Single Gil From My Position in Sudanese Socialist Front

The former chairman of the National Front and the former prime minister of Sudan then proceeds to deal with the accusations made against him by al-Sharif al-Hindi, saying: These accusations are short-lived. For example, there is the accusation that I have been lured with missions. Until this day, I have refused to have the discussions deal with my position and have insisted that they deal with the regime and with the required changes. I have said that there is no use in changing persons and that what is needed is a change in the actions and the establishments. If my goal was to accept a position, this would have happened long ago. But as far, I have no official status whatever. As far as rights are concerned, I have eagerly sought since returning to Sudan the rights of those who had been exiled.

economically. I can say that through the reconciliation, the rights of many people have been restored and many others have been rehabilitated. But until this day, nothing has been returned to me or to my family and if anything is returned in the future, I will be the last to get it. What this means is that if we had embarked on the reconciliation for personal gain, something would have definitely happened in this long period. Had I asked for anything, there would have been a response. At present, I am an ordinary citizen only and I am committed not to transfer the domestic battle of differences outside Sudan but to work for containing them in the country and to try to convince the regime of any policy in which I believe through amicable means of communication. I will tell you that I did not collect a single mil as a monthly salary for the period I spent as a member of the Political Bureau in which I served for 3 months after taking the oath, keeping in mind that a Political Bureau member has privileges that exceed those of a minister.

Why Should I Reconsider If Offered Position of Prime Minister?

[Question] I took this opportunity to ask al-Badri: Will you reconsider if you are offered the position of prime minister?

[Answer] (He replied with surprise): Why should I reconsider?

[Question] I listened to him. But you have pointed out that not all your conditions for national reconciliation have been realized.

[Answer] This is true. But as I have told you, I do not want to talk about any positions unless the reforms which I believe to be necessary for reforming people take place. It is out of the question for me to assume any position or responsibility if these reforms are not made.

Egyptian Leaders Assume Sudan's Subservience to Them

[Question] I asked al-Mahdi al-Mahdi about the facts of the Sudanese-Egyptian relations in light of Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat's attack on Sudanese President Ismail al-Nimri in the 13 May speech.

[Answer] There are between Sudan and Egypt historical bonds that exist at present and that will exist in the future. The results of the Egyptian policy is that many of Egypt's leaders and of its ruling class assume that these bonds commit Sudan to follow Egypt. This is a basic mistake. Sudan has a political movement that is more mature than the political movement in Egypt and Sudan's people are aware of their dignity and their unity. We are Egypt's neighbors but nobody will be wrong if he says that there is a clear-cut Sudanese personality. For example, our Arabic dialect is different from the Egyptian Arab dialect. The official sect in Sudan and Egypt is inherited from the Ottomans, namely the Hanafi sect, whereas the popular sect in Sudan is the Maliki sect and the popular one in Egypt is the Shafi'i sect.

Nidqi Pasha Dreamt of Putting Sudan in His Pocket

(Al-Sadiq adds:) When Nidqi Pasha, for example, returned from his negotiations with Bevin in 1946, he told his people: "I have brought you Sudan in my pocket." When Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, the chairman of the banned al-Wafd (Presumably meaning al-Wafd) Party, wanted to criticize the Egyptian revolution because this revolution was serious in giving Sudan the right to self-determination under the influence of Maj Gen Muhammad Najib who knew the Sudanese well--when Siraj-al-Din wanted to criticize this revolution, he said that it lost Sudan, as if Sudan, says al-Sadiq, is a part of his estate. At present, President al-Sadat assumes that Sudan should support his policies as a matter of course without his having to discuss any of his policies with it. Al-Sadat surprised President Numeiry with his Camp David policy. Numeiry had his circumstances which compelled him to proceed slowly in taking a clear and definite position against the policies of al-Sadat who did not consult Numeiry even though he had consulted a number of other Arab leaders. When al-Sadat was in the United States, Numeiry arrived there before the former's departure but al-Sadat did not even wish to wait to meet with Numeiry and to try to convince him of anything because he assumed, as a result of this attitude of superiority, that Sudan would naturally support any decision he taken. As a result of this attitude, he counted Sudan with the supporters of the [Washington] accord. Even when Numeiry made his Arab solidarity tour, he found understanding from all the countries, including the rejectionist countries, but total disregard from Cairo which doesn't want him to think for himself. In my opinion, the major problem lies in how to implant in the mentality of the Egyptian ruling class the idea that this class cannot realize the common interests of the two peoples except respecting and appreciating the Sudanese will and through abandoning the concept of committing Sudan to be subservient to Egypt. It is my view that any Sudanese, wherever he may be, acknowledges and fully believes in the ties that bind the two fraternal people. But ultimately, all the Sudanese will stand in the face of any Egyptian leadership that wants to transform these interests into subservience. I believe, says al-Sadiq, that the present leadership in Egypt is like the leadership which existed in the days of King Farouq--a leadership that has been and continues to be very ill with this disease. The Egyptian studies materials that assure him that Sudan was part of Egypt until the conquest [sic] and that one of the demands of the Egyptian national movement is "evacuation" and "Sudan." These concepts must be eliminated from the Egyptian national education and from the Egyptian culture. The Egyptian must view Sudan as a people with their entity, their pride and their dignity. Through such approach, the highest degrees of cooperation, integration and unity can be achieved. Otherwise, there will be estrangement, conflict and alienation. (Continuing his assessment of the Egyptian policy, Al-Sadiq al-Sabdi adds:) There is a very serious aspect in al-Sadat policy revealed in the fact that when al-Sadat came to Khartoum to take part in the session of the Joint Egyptian-Sudanese People's Assembly, he said that he is Sudan's protector, thus imposing custodianship on our country and ignoring the fact that he was addressing a people with their priorities in life and with their concepts and values. He who sells the trust of his country cannot find a way with which to impose "custodianship" on Sudan. The mainframe of the Arab Egypt and of the Islamic Egypt have been lost with al-Sadat's policy. With

his current policy, the Egyptian president has shattered any possibility of cooperation between Egypt and Sudan because he has turned Egypt into an inlet for relationship with Israel and this relationship is rejected at the Arab, Islamic and national levels.

To put it briefly, the success of any relationship between Egypt and Sudan depends on the disappearance of two things:

First, disappearance of the domineering Egyptian Medivite mentality that assumes Sudan's subservience to Egypt.

Second, disappearance of the current Egyptian policy which is non-Arab, non-Islamic and non-national.

Biggest Accomplishment of Palestinian Revolution is its Transfer of Battle to West Bank and Gaza

[Question] I then moved on with al-Hadi al-Mahdi to talk about the Palestinian resistance. I asked: Are you with the policy of the Palestinian diplomacy or with the policy of the rifle only?

[Answer] (Here, the leader of al-Amal says): First, this sharp division between the rifle and diplomacy does not exist at all. It is my opinion that the Palestinian resistance performed an honorable act when it transferred the battle to the occupied territories. The battle is still heated and the West Bank and Gaza people are still fighting bravely. This in itself is one of the biggest accomplishments of the Palestinian revolution and is something that sends the greatest love in the heart amidst this darkness which has been created by al-Sadat policy. All that we hope for now is that the Arab and Islamic countries play a role in heating up the battle. Israel must be made to feel that this situation in the West Bank and the Strip is unbearable insofar as it is concerned. As for the issue of diplomacy, it is necessary and it has major priority, especially since it has become evident that it is possible to influence the U.S. public opinion, especially the black sector which has displayed great readiness to understand the Arab cause. It is our duty to address this public opinion. We should also not forget that there is evident conflict between the United States and its allies and here again we need to address these allies.

I tell you, says al-Fatih, that the Arabs must put the United States before two options: either the relationship with the Arabs or the relationship with Israel. I believe that if we put the United States before these two options, it will definitely opt for the place where it has its interests, namely the relationship with the Arabs, because Washington is fully aware that Israel is saddling it with extremely exorbitant costs. Israel is an industrial outfit created by the U.S. intelligence and the U.S. weapons. I know many Americans, such as Fulbright, George Ball and James (Aiken), the former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, who have shown a clear understanding of the Arab cause and have demanded re-adjustment of the U.S. relations with Israel from the angle of restoring the legitimate Arab rights.

The L.N. mentality, adds al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, still believes that the United States can be the main support for Israel while being at the same time the main beneficiary of the Arab interests. An end must be put to this "vanity" through the alert movement of the Islamic and Arab nation.

Iranian Revolution's Experience

[Question] Just before leaving the office of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in his home, I remembered the Iranian revolution and the messages that al-Mahdi has carried from President Numayri to Khomeyni and the Iranian leaders and so I asked him about his assessment of the Iranian revolution.

[Answer] (Al-Sadiq said): I believe that the Iranian revolution had clear and definite goals, foremost being the goal of purging Iran of the regime of the shah who wanted to change Iran's skin and to impose Western interests on it. The Iranian revolution is the biggest proof of the capabilities of Islam to mobilize the masses' will for liberation. It is also an affirmation that the interests of the Muslims do not lie in subservience to the east or the west and that these interests are based on the faith, creed, ideals and entity of the Muslims. But as we know, adds al-Sadiq, every revolution has to encounter some troubles because the previous security and administration system falls to pieces and this leads to an eruption of the previously repressed problems. It is my belief that the current problems of the Iranian revolution arise from the absence of alternative programs to those of the toppled regime. They also emanate from the lack of harmony between the revolutionary cadre of politicians and the clergymen. This has provided the opportunity for the rise of some centers of power that want to leave their own impression. The Iranian revolution is now facing a major challenge embodied in drawing up alternative revolutionary programs and developing the revolutionary cadre capable of leadership.

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BOURGUIBA SIGNS DECREE-LAWS

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 16 Aug 80 p 4

[Report] "The Independence of the Judiciary Must Be Safeguarded"

[Text] Yesterday morning President Habib Bourguiba conferred at Carthage Palace with Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

Mohamed Mzali, minister of justice, and Salaheddine Balv, minister of national defense, later joined the conversation.

Following the audience, Mohamed Mzali made the following statement: "The talk with the chief of state dealt with some problems related to the functioning of the administration and the judiciary.

The Supreme Fighter reemphasized the need for an independent judiciary. He equally recalled that he had sacrificed his youth for the independence of the country and for the prevalence of justice among the citizens, and that he will always watch, with God's help, over the honesty of this state and the strengthening of the foundations of its domestic and foreign influence.

Furthermore, the President of the Republic was kind enough to sign in the course of the audience the following decree-laws:

- Decree-law on the creation of a school of medicine in Monastir;
- Decree-law on the organization of pharmaceutical studies in Tunisia;
- Decree-law on the organization of the teaching of dentistry;
- Decree-law amending law No 76-66 of 12 July 1976 on the organization of medical careers;
- Decree-law amending Law No 77-19 of 21 March 1977 on the system of studies in medical sciences.

- Decree-law on the ratification of the loan agreement concluded in Washington on 22 May 1962 between the government of the Republic of Tunisia and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development pertaining to the fourth highways project.

- Decree-law ratifying the agreement between the government of the Republic of Tunisia and the Association for Voluntary Sterilization.

The President of the Republic also signed two decrees, the first appointing Mohamed Ali Souissi director general of projects of the Ministry of the Plan and Finances, and appointing Ridha Zbiri director general of taxes of the same department.

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PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES GROUP CHARGED WITH FORGING NEW STUDENT UNION

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 6 Aug 80 pp 1, 4

[Text] "We want an organization or several organizations elected freely and by democratic means which would really represent the students, take part in the organization of university life and, why not, be really concerned with the political, economic, social, and obviously, the cultural life of the country."

These were the words of the prime minister and Party secretary general, Mr Mohamed Mzali on Monday evening at the Dar Maghrebis in Carthage, when he inaugurated the work of the study commission assigned to the examination of the question of student representation.

In his recent declarations, Mr Mohamed Mzali had already promised that the government would do whatever was in its power this summer in order that at the beginning of the academic year, the students could form such an organization. To understand the problem and to place the Monday evening meeting in its true context, the prime minister gave an analysis which recalled the various techniques applied, but unsuccessfully, to solve the crisis affecting the UGET [General Tunisian Student Union] since the Korba Congress and which has finally caused a paralysis in this organization.

"The university crisis," said the prime minister, "and the periodical disturbances it has been experiencing, derive from many objective and subjective reasons of which one, which is by no means the least, is that hateful "division into small groups," caused itself essentially by the ideological quarrels which have for several years been sapping the student milieu. The situation was, so to say, blocked, and this block was the result of almost rigidly frozen stands and of the previously adopted principles. In particular, two previous stands, which were expressed by two slogans: "Free our imprisoned comrades" and "Do away with supervision." Today there is no longer any political prisoner in Tunisia, and an interministerial council has just decided that the former university supervisors will be, in a matter of speaking, recycled, converted and transferred to other administrative cadres. As regards the statement that the students are unable to practice democracy in a supposedly non-democratic country, I would answer: we ourselves believe that Tunisia is evolving unceasingly towards increasing

democracy; that democracy is acquired, built up and earned, and finally, that the initiatives taken just recently by President Bourguiba should encourage the spectators and skeptics among the students to speak on democracy. As for me, I sincerely believe that it will be possible for us to obtain, by the beginning of the academic year, a strategy tending to permit the students to take part in the university life and more generally, in the political life of the country by means of an organization which would be their own, as was the case in the past, and more particularly during the national struggle."

Students Must Assume Their Responsibilities

"But the government can only take part in the solution of the problem of the UST. It cannot be held solely responsible for it. For there are also the university authorities whose duty is to guarantee the process of free elections and by so doing, remove the students' doubts. But indeed neither the government nor the university authorities could do anything if the persons directly concerned, i.e., the students do not assume their own responsibilities, seriously, loyally and especially courageously. That is why I wish to make an appeal to the students to get rid of the doubts they have entertained in the past, so that they could speak of a democratic solution, and be wary of those behavior patterns and stances which have delayed the cause of the students, wasted their energies, and been detrimental to their interests."

Elections at the Start of the Academic Year

"I am also asking the members of this commission to start immediately a search for procedures which would solve the problem democratically and not to become lost in analyses and conjectures."

Ever since Kharba, over many years and in many newspaper columns, the phenomenon has been analyzed to such a degree that it has almost been killed, and with it, the university life."

The prime minister then suggested that at the beginning of the academic year, the students should proceed to elect delegates which would be representing them with the committee which will be appointed to prepare the congress of organization. These elections must be free, and their organization might be entrusted to the Deans who are elected and by lecturers accepted voluntarily by the students.

"What I promise," Mr Mohamed Wali, too said, "is that the organization to which this congress gives birth, according to this formula or any other formula accepted by the students, will be recognized by the government as a valid partner and as a legitimate and legal representative of the students." "Where will this step lead us?" was the prime minister's next question, before declaring: "vital to the success of the operation, a situation which would compel us to practice the game of democracy and negotiation leading either

to agreement or disagreement. In case of the latter, the dialog would have to continue, and public opinion would be called on as witness. If this attempt were to fail, unfortunately, the government would be released from its responsibility, because it would have exhausted all its possible procedures.

Be that as it may, the only way open to us in Tunisia is to become accustomed to living with a diversity of opinions which may well be supplementary as long as they are based on patriotism, national unity, the unswerving attachment to the development model freely chosen by us.

That is why the very essence of "bourguibism" is to open our minds to ideas and trends, however different they may be, and to work towards establishing by their means a platform for national struggle."

Bourguibism, Symbol of Democracy

Indeed, bourguibism has its roots in the people, and that is why it is democratic, and that is why it is so devoted to openness, to the debating of ideas, by means of dialog and far removed from sterile violence. On the other hand, ideological depth represents the surest path to increasing democracy."

This meeting was attended by Messrs Mongi Kooli, Party Leader and ministerial delegate of the prime minister, Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Fouad Mebazaa, minister of Information and Cultural Affairs, Mansour Moalia, minister of Planning and Finances, Sadok Ben Jemaa, minister of Transportation and Communications and Mezri Chekir, head of the prime minister's Cabinet.

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CSO: 4400

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER PRESIDES OVER MEETING ON RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 5 Aug 80 p 5

[Text] Mr Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and Party secretary general, presided at noon yesterday, over a work session whose purpose was to study religious questions. This meeting was attended in particular by Messrs Fouad Mehazaa, minister of Information and Cultural Affairs, Mohamed Frej Chedli, minister of National Education, Mezri Chekir, head of the prime minister's Cabinet, Sheikh Mohamed Habib Belkhoja, Mufti of the Republic, Mr M'hadheb Roujasi, governor and president of the Tunis District, Zakaria Ben Mustapha, mayor of the capital and Kamel Tarzi, Cult director.

On this occasion, the prime minister announced that he would be honoring on Wednesday 6 August, corresponding to 25 Ramadan, at the time of breaking the fast (Iftar), the imams who preached in the District of Tunis.

He recommended moreover that care be taken of the mosques, both with regard to the furniture and the external appearance which should be worthy of the spiritual worth of these buildings and in accordance with the directives of the Supreme Warrior who has always shown his solicitude for religious matters and is anxious to safeguard the mosques and promote the Islamic religion.

During this session, it was decided to hold a meeting, to be chaired by the prime minister, of the commission appointed a few months ago for the purpose of reforming the syllabus and the methods of teaching of the Kairouan Theology School.

Finally, the prime minister gave instructions to ban publicity regarding alcoholic beverages and tobacco, to preserve the physical and moral health of the Tunisian youth.

WJH
CSO: 1400

MOKKADDEM COMMENTS ON NEW DYNAMISM IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Tunis DIALOGUE in French 21 Jul 80 pp 30-32

[Interview with President of the National Assembly Sadok Mekkaden by Hajja el-Almi]

[Text] On the eve of the celebration, this coming 25 July, of the 23rd anniversary of the republic, a "balance sheet" interview with the president of the national assembly--a fundamental institution of the democratic and republican system which this year has, moreover, begun its fifth session--was a "must." This was all the more true in that the method employed in the election of the nation's representatives (through the introduction of the system of expanded lists), and the agenda for the immediate future, both invite reflection. We have therefore deemed it useful to put some important questions to Dr Sadok Mekkaden.

[Question] Mr President, for the first time since independence the deputies of the National Assembly have been elected on the basis of a system prescribed by the Electoral Code: the system of expanded lists. These elections gave the citizens the opportunity to freely choose their representatives.

Has this new electoral formula resulted in the appearance--during the session now drawing to a close--of a new dynamism in the National Assembly, particularly, at the level of the debates and the parliamentary committees?

[Answer] It is appropriate to note first of all that the procedure of the expanded lists has resulted in a major turnover in the membership of the National Assembly. Virtually two-thirds of the Assembly is composed of new deputies who are sitting in that body for the first time. Another important fact is the decrease in the average age of the deputies, for you cannot fail to have noted that this Assembly is much younger than the preceding one. Lastly, the deputies have in fact been eager to participate to a greater extent, both on the committees and in the plenary assemblies. It can accordingly be said that this new procedure (although we

are too close to the attention in large, and despite some negative aspects that have been noted, has certain interesting positive aspects and provides food for thought and study. There is no doubt that the voters, and public opinion, have greeted the new system with considerable interest. The voter has felt himself more involved, for the new system enables him to feel that he is participating to a greater extent in public affairs. This heightened interest on the part of the voters is, moreover, an additional incentive for the deputies to express themselves more vigorously and influence the debates. As you say, a new dynamism is beginning to manifest itself, to take shape. I believe this is a good thing. I like to say--and to reiterate--that although we have been living under a representative system we have yet to create our traditions, our customs.... That takes a long time, and a quarter of a century--in the lifetime of a nation--isn't very long... especially when the turnover in the Assembly has been on a massive scale.

[Question] It is admissible, in a democracy, for an elected representative to have complete freedom of expression--and make his point of view prevail--in Parliament. There are limits, however. Could you tell us what they are?

[Answer] Democratic dialogue has its rules. The essential thing is, above all else, tolerance toward opposing views, toward others. I believe this to be the fundamental rule of all democratic activity. The exercise of the right of self-expression therefore presupposes one's agreement that others shall also enjoy the same right to express themselves with the same freedom and under the same conditions. The second rule is to hold fast to certain norms--certain rules of the game--to which one should adhere, in that they derive from one's awareness of the responsibility one assumes when participating in public affairs, in the democratic system and in democratic dialogue as an elected representative of the nation or even as an ordinary citizen. One should, moreover, feel duty bound to place this dialogue on a certain level by acting in such a way that it will be oriented toward the search for truth and the public interest rather than toward disruption, personal attacks and so forth. These are the only limitations, and they are, moreover, not imposed but freely accepted.

In our case--in our Assembly--we obviously adhere to an agenda. One cannot bring up every aspect of every subject. That is the only limitation. I believe, moreover, that the deputies are beginning to use this right of expression with considerable skill and conscientiousness. The merit of our system is precisely the fact that it enables all the deputies--who are a representative sample of society as a whole--to express their own views together with those currents and trends of opinion that gave birth to their respective candidacies or that relate to their respective constituencies and backgrounds...which do not necessarily correspond to the point of view of their opponents in the debate....

[Question] It's the right to be different that makes the National Assembly so valuable....

[Answer] Yes, and these differences do not prejudice the quality of the dialogue. I believe this is the most important fact. It is an example of one of the bases of the Bourguiba philosophy, which is founded on dialog and compromise--an example taken from the parliamentary milieu.

[Question] In his keynote address to the Nation, 4 January the Prime Minister placed emphasis on the clarity that should prevail in the relations among the different branches of government. In particular, he declared that the exercise of power should rule out secrecy.

In what measure does this intent serve to consolidate the relations of trust that exist between the legislative branch and the executive branch?

[Answer] I believe that in order to be fair and to be faithful to historical truth, it must be said that clarity has always existed in the relations between the government and the National Assembly. There has never been any secrecy, or secret agreements, or secret clauses, of any kind; there has been, in fact, a resolute manifestation of the truth. There have been two or three debates which have dealt with basic questions. I may mention the debate on the proposed union with Libya in 1974.... There has also been a complete openness both on the part of the Assembly and on the part of the government, and the respective responsibilities have been accepted with the greatest decisiveness. The same thing was true this year following the attack on Gafsa. The government did not conceal any of the data in its possession that were useful in an evaluation of the situation, and the deputies did not fail to state their views, ask questions and attempt to cast greater light on the events. The same was also true in 1976, when the agitation that occurred in January and the subsequent attempts to incite uprisings in our country also gave rise to a very intense and profound debate concerning the matter. This is to say that on the part of Prime Minister Mohamed Reali what has happened is neither an innovation nor a new element in the evaluation of the relations between the government and the Assembly but rather the affirmation of a situation that has always prevailed in the relations between the two branches and that constitutes the very foundation, and the guaranty, of the efficient operation of our political system--a situation which I always define as good harmony, and good coordination, among the individual cogs in the machinery of our republican system.

[Question] Mr President, the 1979-1980 parliamentary session is coming to a close. Is it possible to identify for us its strong points?

[Answer] First of all, you know that as with all the assemblies in the world the important--the essential--action of an assembly is the budget. Why is this so? Because the budget lays bare all the problems that affect the life of the nation and offers a complete panorama of those problems. The analysis of the budget requires virtually 3 months of committee meetings and plenary assemblies. And also because the budget is the basic instrument which authorizes the government to employ the means necessary to carry out its policy, particularly when it is linked to the policy of

development. Through the effectiveness of the budget the economic framework of the state's activities is directed by the joint effort of the Assembly and the government. The study of the budget is therefore the most difficult--and the most important--aspect of the session and the one that requires the greatest attention and care on the part of the deputies. A second aspect to be considered is the fact that through the medium of the cooperation agreements and international accords the whole of our foreign policy is evolved and given rise--in the National Assembly--to debates with the government that are most valuable and most interesting. Problems also arise that relate to security, public order and the law. Substantial changes have been made in certain codes, as occurred this year in the case of the Civil and Commercial Code of Procedures, the penal code, and everything that relates to social security. These are very important problems to which the Assembly has accorded a great deal of attention.

[Question] The Cafes incident demonstrated that national unity has been strengthened. What do you think can be done to consolidate this unity further?

[Answer] You know, it is my belief that the consolidation of national unity is a continuing task--a constant effort that should take into account not only the evolution of the mentality of our citizens but also the profound changes our society is undergoing as a result of its development. These changes are the consequences of development--consequences that are known and predictable but that are inevitable. They involve the generalization of education, the elevation of our standard of living, the number of dwellings that have been constructed, the social guarantees that have been granted--all of which serves to create among the citizens, in a general way, a somewhat different and changing vision the importance of which must be grasped precisely, in order that their decisions may be adapted to the maintenance of national unity. It is therefore not a matter of something sacrosanct before which one bows down or venerates because it is something sacred, something mysterious. It is instead a constant effort, a daily effort. I would almost say it is a state of mind, a mentality, that should prevail--especially among officials, at whatever level of responsibility they function. It is a continuing quest, an effort that is constantly renewed--a kind of dynamism for every moment. What you have here is the process of developing political awareness, the political maturation, the ferment, that is taking place in our society--for our society is indeed in the process of maturing. It is the gestation of a new social and economic order--gestation which is, very fortunately, taking place under good conditions despite some minor disturbances. It is a process of gestation that is nonetheless taking place: our society is giving birth to something new. This is the gamble that President Bourguiba has taken, that the party has taken. In one of his speeches the president said that after the attainment of independence in some countries the status quo had been preserved, with no effort being made to democratize education, to facilitate access by all social classes to education, to instruction, to responsibilities--primarily for the sake of having peace. It is a vision, however, that did prevail in certain countries for a time but ended in an explosion. Here in Tunisia the president and the party took a gamble,

with all the risks it entailed, and they did so courageously. We are witnessing a profound transformation in our society--a transformation that was anticipated and that will give birth to a new society, which Fréchet has called the "Middle Society." I believe we shall achieve a social system that will satisfy the aspirations of the young people who raise their eyes toward the heavens, toward the future: who desire to see what will become of them, how their destiny will evolve, with all the attendant social and economic implications and also all the constraints--the constraints of employment, the constraints of investment, and so on--which are often very severe. All of this, however, is the plan that democracy and development entail.

[Question] The country is about to begin preparation of the Sixth Plan for economic and social development. How does the National Assembly propose to participate effectively in this preparation?

[Answer] Participation in the preparation of the Sixth Plan is taking place on several levels. There are the preliminary phases, which are now in the process of implementation and in which the deputies are participating in different individual capacities, either through their national organizations or through their sectorial committees. Their participation is therefore a fact. The Assembly is already present in the person of these elements, who are participating as individuals or as representatives of their respective organizations. Once the bill has taken shape there will be committees on which deputies will also serve. It is when the draft of the bill is completed that the Assembly will take formal charge of it, for in the final analysis the draft plan will become a law--an executive law--which will to some extent follow the same process as all laws.

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END: 4400

BRIEFS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ACTIVITY [FA]--The National Assembly reports the following: "The expanded commissions of the National Assembly, including all deputies, shall meet on Tuesday 19 August 1980 at 0900 for a general foreign policy debate with the minister of foreign affairs. In the course of their joint meeting, to be held on Thursday 21 August 1980, at 0900 hours, the finance and plan commissions and the agriculture, industry, and trade commissions shall hear the minister of the national economy on a draft project authorizing the state to subscribe to the capitalization of the Wholesale Markets Company of Tunisia. The National Assembly shall meet next Thursday at 1100 hours to examine the motion to deprive Hassen Kacem of his parliamentary immunity." [Text] [Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 17 Aug 80 p 1] 5157

RETIREMENT FUND FOR PROFESSIONALS--Yesterday morning Mohamed Ennassour, minister of social affairs, received in his office a delegation representing the boards of directors of the councils of the Order of Physicians, Pharmacists, and Architects, and of the National Union of General Insurance Agents. The discussions dealt with extending the retirement system to members of the liberal professions. Mohamed Ennassour informed the delegation members that the retirement plan is currently under study by the ministry and that an expert of the International Labor Office (ILO) is examining the question. The beneficiaries of this system will choose the formula best adapted to their situation. Furthermore, the delegation informed the minister of a plan for the establishment of a national liberal professions union. A provisional committee has been set up to this effect. Its mission will be to facilitate coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs with a view to extending the old age, disability, and survivor benefits to the liberal professions. [Text] [Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 16 Aug 80 p 1] 5157

CANDIDATES FOR EZ-ZAHRA ELECTIONS--Following is the list of the candidates for the partial municipal elections of Ez-Zahra: Fatma Larbi Bouassoufari; Yousef Megannem; Abdeljelil Boudraa; Tahar Bouchlaka; Habib Ghedemli; Habib Kherigi; Abdelhakim Chetli; Mohamed Sahli; Salaheddine Belhannane; Mohamed Ben Ali; Mokhtar Ben F'lima; Amal M'ach; Ahmed Mennour Ben Jomaa; Rafika Marrakchi; Hassiba Ghedli; Abdelaziz Touli; Abdelhamid Amari; Rachid Ben Hassine; Khouloua Lajni; Mohamed Limam; Belhassen M'rad; Mohamed Mokhtar Labidi; Mouncef Feioi; Mohamed Salah Ayari; Mohamed Ben Hameur; Mohamed Essi; Nabil Gafai; Farouk Ben M'rad; Ali Chebil; Rahab Kannou; Rachid Ben Boudhane; Hassen Bellil. [Text] [Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 16 Aug 80 p 4] 5157

BOU ARKHOUB MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS--The Bou Arkoub partial municipal elections campaign opened last Thursday. At an electoral meeting organized on this occasion the secretary general of the Nabeul Coordination Committee recalled that the creation of the Bou Arkoub municipality was consistent with the wish expressed by the local citizens. He discussed the mission of the municipality as a cell for action and promotion and as a course in the learning and exercise of democracy. [Text] [Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 16 Aug 80 p 4] 5157

CSO: 4400

AOSARIO OPEN LETTER TO AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE

Rabat L'OPINION in French 6 Aug 80 p 3

[Text] The Movement of the Natives of Saguiet Al Hamra and of Rio de Oro (AOSARIO) sent an open letter to all the African heads of state in the framework of the next meeting of the Committee of the Wise Men, which will meet shortly in Africa. Here is the complete text of that letter:

Open letter to
Their Excellencies the African Heads of State
with a copy for information to their ministers of
Foreign Affairs,

Excellencies,

At a time when all eyes are turned toward the occurrence of the future meeting of the Committee of the Wise Men, which will have to debate the so-called "Sahara formerly under Spanish domination" problem, the AOSARIO appeals to the sense of responsibility and to the conscience of the African leaders, asking them to situate the debate in its proper context, even to consider it--which is actually the case--under the conflictual angle which sees opposed our mother country, Morocco, and the Algerian Republic, which by its intentions and its tendencies toward expansionism and hegemonism has deliberately sacrificed the life, the destiny and the future of our people now held captive on Algerian soil.

Permit us to recall briefly to all the African leaders that historic moment when the creation of the "Polisario" was decided upon in 1974 in Algiers under the most artificial conditions.

It was indeed after the first movement of liberation born in the Sahara against the occupant--a movement whose offices were located in Algeria until the end of 1974--had refused to play the role of a puppet in the service of Algiers, that the leaders in power in the country had recourse to that dilatory maneuver. A maneuver which was to permit them to carry out their pact

with the Francoist authorities on political and economic concessions, which were themselves based on the respective interests of the two heads of state.

It was in accordance with this secret pact made known after the death of Franco, that the Algerian leaders tried from the month of June 1975 to place their troops in strategic positions located in the Sahara, particularly Angala, Bahba, Guelta Zemmur, as well as in several forts along the lines which link these bridgeheads; in addition the confrontation at the places cited between Algerian troops and Royal Army Forces had revealed this maneuver on which Algiers was counting to quietly replace the colonial forces in place.

The Overwhelming Evidence

In order to avoid hasty and unfounded positions and for the purpose of allowing international and African opinion to be informed in particular, the AOSARIO has drawn up a paper which will be placed in the hands of Amnesty International, the Committee of the Wise Men and all the appropriate international authorities. This paper is supported by the testimony of dozens of our brothers who have fled the camps set up in the great Algerian south, telling of the conditions of imprisonment of our people, the barbarous and inhumane treatment inflicted daily upon them, the physical liquidations, the collective and systematic massacres of which all who refused to play the Algerian game and submit were victims.

Active Solidarity with Morocco

Other peoples have also witnessed deportations and the taking as hostages of hundreds of members of our tribes by the Algerian army at the time it fell back from positions it was occupying on our soil before the arrival of troops of the Royal Armed Forces.

In the face of these serious events witnessed by the African northwest, in the face of that truth travestied by the Algerian-Libyan coalition, which cares only about its own hegemonic interests, African leaders have an obligation to use every effort to safeguard the principles of African solidarity and fraternity. A solidarity and fraternity which must be based unconditionally on ideological or clan contingencies. On that point we can affirm--without fear of contradiction--that if the African peoples are divided into states and nations, it is nevertheless true that they remain one and the same family, a family which, despite great ethnic and cultural diversity, forms a single mosaic in which each individual must find his own place.

We ourselves are persuaded that the African leaders will examine our case, a living Calvary for our brothers and sisters on Algerian soil, with great lucidity and with that great wisdom which is known to be theirs. We do not doubt, moreover, that the interests of our mother country, Morocco, will be protected against all partiality and injustice.

A retrospective of the last 3 decades of history can only lead the African leaders to realize that it is precisely the courageous attitude of our people and that of their sovereign, their authentically militant solidarity adopted with respect to the Algerian people struggling for their independence, which has caused the process of decolonialization undertaken by Spain in accordance with our country's wishes in these regions of the south to stop mid-way and this was done in a unilateral and arbitrary way by that same Spain which had just returned to Morocco Tarfaya and its region, which was followed by the return of Ifni.

A Single Family

These historical facts, as well as those concerning a legal precedent, explain why the principle of the inviolability of the colonial frontiers according to the OAU cannot be applied specifically to the case of Morocco in the matter of the process of decolonialization involving the regions of the south. One cannot refer to historical references without being obliged to recall, moreover, that all the peoples of the Sahara who were formerly under Spanish domination are from a genealogical and ethnological point of view only parts of mother tribes, established since time immemorial within the mother country, Morocco. The profound reasons which have provoked that hostility on the part of Spain are due to the pressure from the former colonial powers and are aimed directly at Morocco and its people, who have never faltered in their unconditional support of the Algerian FLN.

It must be noted that if the Moroccan people and their sovereign had agreed to accept the colonial arguments by refusing, because of them, to grant refuge bases to the Algerian fighters, there can be no doubt that no pressure would have been exerted on Spain. Pressure advising it at the time to halt a process of decolonialization, which would have inevitably led several years ago to giving back the Sahara to the mother country, Morocco.

Scorn for International Conventions

Must it be recalled that it is thanks to the political, diplomatic and military support of Morocco that the colonial maneuver of France, which attempted to create an independent state in the Algerian Sahara, was thwarted. Thanks also to the solidarity of the African countries certain "rump" states, which were to be created on purpose, never came into existence (Biafra, Katanga, Cabinda...) and thus was avoided the Balcanization of Africa. And we, authentic native peoples of the Sahara formerly under Spanish domination, are being tortured in camps by the Algerian leaders, in scorn of international law and African fraternity. Torture, massacres and deportation of our families are utilized for hegemonic purposes by that country. We deplore strongly the scorning on the part of Algerian leaders of international conventions, these leaders who have until now refused to take a census, as required by the Geneva Convention, of our brothers held on their soil, just as they have refused to receive any international commission whose role would be to authenticate the native peoples of the Sahara formerly under Spanish domination.

We also deplore the fact that tens of thousands of Malians, of Chadians, of Nigerians, of Mauritaniens and of Algerian Sahraouis are shown in Tindouf in showcase camps as being native peoples of our region and constituting a storehouse of subversion for the countries of that region.

The AOSARIO movement which brings together MORIDHOB, the first liberation movement born in the Sahara, the PUNS [Sahraoui National Union Party], the FLU [Front for Liberation and Unity] and the Jemaa, all of whom are petitioning the United Nations, express the hope of seeing the African heads of state discriminate between lies and truth in the face of a coalition of Algerian-Libyan interests, of which all africa is fully aware.

5 August 1980
for the AOSARIO
The Secretary General;
signed: Ahmed Rachid

8936
CSO: 4400

AOSARIO SECRETARY GENERAL DISCUSSES ORGANIZATION'S ROLE

Rabat L'OPINION in French 31 Jul 80 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Mr Ahmed Rachid, secretary of AOSARIO by M. T.--
date and place unknown]

[Text] The secretary general of the AOSARIO, Ahmed Ould Rachid, declares in an exclusive interview with L'OPINION: It is necessary to combat and eliminate the harmful activities of the enemy's fifth column.

Toward the intensification of AOSARIO military action.

The time having come, the historic movements--that is the MOREHOB [expansion unknown], the PUNS [Sahraoui National Union Party], the FLU [Front for Liberation and Unity], and the Jemaa and the AOSARIO--will testify before African and international authorities.

More than 7,000 regular Mauritanian troops assigned by the Nouakchott regime to the ranks of the mercenaries in service of Algerian hegemonism.

In a declaration published exclusively in L'OPINION, the secretary general of the AOSARIO explains his organization, its structure and its program for the immediate future.

In answer to the request to define the AOSARIO, Mr Ahmed Rachid emphasizes the fact that his movement has its legitimacy in the necessity to demystify and counteract the allegations of the Algerian mercenaries and to prove, in particular, that our Sahraoui brothers are being held captive in Tindouf.

The moment having come, adds the secretary general of the AOSARIO, the historic movements having struggled against Spanish colonialism and having defended the territorial integrity of the mother country, Morocco, that is, the MOREHOB, the Sahraoui National Union Party (PUNS), the Front for Liberation and Unity (FLU) and the Jemaa will testify before African and international authorities, just as they had already done in 1975 and 1976 before the United Nations.

Mr Ahmed Rachid points out further that it is up to our government, and to it alone, to draw the conclusions which are imposed by past events and those to come.

A Single Struggle

Concerning the role that the AOSARIO ought to fill, he pointed out that it was part of the great struggle led by the Moroccan people in support of their sovereign. "Because, if the uniforms are different, it is nevertheless true that the end result is the same, that is, the struggle against the enemies of our integrity and of our national unity."

"For us," adds Mr Ahmed Rachid, "our country and our people must remain vigilant, more than ever, in order to--not only--oppose the foreign enemy, but also to combat and thwart the harmful activities of that fifth column which is acting openly and is benefiting from a certain immunity which permits it to operate in relative peace."

"I cite, for example," adds the secretary general of the AOSARIO, certain Mauriticians whom we meet, as we travel around to Dakar and other places, and who, strangely, denigrate our accomplishments, while they benefit from considerable advantages right here in Morocco."

To the question of the AOSARIO'S views and future actions, Mr Ahmed Rachid reminds us that the AOSARIO is being used to complete the implantation of the organizational infrastructure in Europe as well as in Africa, and has laid the groundwork for more active cooperation with the international movements and organizations which share its convictions.

Pan-Africanism, Pan-Arabism and Pan-Islamism

"It was for that purpose," Mr Ahmed Rachid adds, "that the AOSARIO met in Paris with Mr al-Bitar, the former Syrian prime minister and co-founder of the Baas Party, 1 week before his assassination by the henchmen of Hafez Al Assad and his brother. Mr al-Bitar was chairing a delegation which, along with other African and European leaders and officials, participated in drawing up a charter intended to promote Pan-Islamism, Pan-Africanism and Pan-Arabism.

"All these organizations," adds Mr Rachid, "have assured the AOSARIO of their full support and have, together, rendered a vibrant homage to the actions of the late king, Mohammed V and to his worthy successor, Hassan II, and that was done for the good of all our peoples who are affected by those actions. These organizations have, in addition, assured our movement of their active and militant support."

Intensified Action

"Our action," the secretary general of the AOSARIO added, "followed by great attention on the part of African leaders, will be intensified and extended to the whole of the continent."

Recalling what President Senghor revealed recently concerning the racist aspect of the Algerian mercenaries, Mr Ahmed Rachid points out that "the president of Senegal has laid bare the nature of a policy that the Algerians modeled after those of Hitler."

Algiers Accused

"Taking into consideration our contacts with "Amnesty International" and certain humanitarian organizations, under the United Nations," adds the secretary general of the AOSARIO, "the massacres ordered by Algiers of Black Mauritaniens and Senegalese, as well as hundreds of our brothers and sisters held prisoner on Algerian soil, taking into consideration these contacts we can state that international opinion has decided to judge severely the genocide that Algiers is guilty of. It is in that context that the AOSARIO is preparing a legal dossier which will confound the criminals and show the facts of the genocide based on irrefutable testimony."

On the military level, Mr Ahmed Rachid claims that "it is not impossible, it is even probable that the AOSARIO will intensify and extend its military action to regions where our brothers and sisters are held prisoner." "The action itself," points out Mr Ahmed Rachid, "might possibly take the form of reprisals against all those who would dare interfere in our domestic affairs and especially against those who might try to use our destiny for hegemonic ends."

"I point out," says the secretary general of the AOSARIO, "that the indigenous peoples of the Sahara will never exchange their Moroccan heritage for Algerian welfare."

Mauritanian Provocations

In conclusion, Mr Ahmed Rachid denounces the provocative role played by certain Mauritanian officials, of which the latest provocation against our country was the placing at the disposition of the mercenaries in the pay of the Algerian government of 7,000 troops of the regular Mauritanian army.

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